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PUBLICATIONS
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE
PAPERS OF THOMAS RUFFIN

COLLECTED AND EDITED

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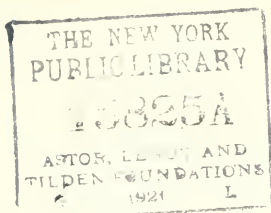
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ALUMNI PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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CALENDAR OF LETTERS

LETTERS WRITTEN BY THOMAS RUFFIN HERE PRINTED

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written to</i>
Raleigh, N. C.....	March 16, 1859....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.....	March 19, 1859....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C.....	Oct. 8, 1859....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C.	Nov. 5, 1859....	John W. Ellis
Alamance, N. C.	Nov. 14, 1859....	John W. Ellis
Alamance, N. C.	Dec. 23, 1859....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C.	Sept. 15, 1860....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C.	Nov. 26, 1860....	David L. Swain
Alamance, N. C.	May 9, 1861....	John K. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C.	June 6, 1861....	Ward & Company
Alamance, N. C.	Aug. 6, 1861....	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac
Alamance, N. C.	May 21, 1862....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Alamance, N. C.	May 21, 1862....	John Ireland
Alamance, N. C.	March 25, 1863....	Colonel Murray
Alamance, N. C.	Aug. 11, 1863....	E. J. Hale
Alamance, N. C.	Aug. 16, 1864....	E. J. Hale & Sons
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 1, 1864....	Peter Mallett
.....	June 1, 1865....	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac

LETTERS WRITTEN TO THOMAS RUFFIN HERE PRINTED

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Jan. 3, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
New Bern, N. C.	Jan. 22, 1859....	Joseph Murphy
Washington, N. C.	Feb. 4, 1859....	John K. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 7, 1859....	George D. Boyd
Warrenton, N. C.	Feb. 14, 1859....	Joseph S. Jones
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Feb. 14, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Feb. 19, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Marlbourne, Va.	Feb. 26, 1859....	Edmund Ruffin
Poplar Mount, N. C.	March 3, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Chapel Hill, N. C.	March 17, 1859....	David L. Swain
Chapel Hill, N. C.	March 17, 1859....	Andrew Mickle
Poplar Mount, N. C.	March 19, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Chapel Hill, N. C.	March 31, 1859....	William H. Battle
Brooklyn, N. Y.	April 2, 1859....	William W. Kirkland
Poplar Mount, N. C.	April 4, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Poplar Mount, N. C.	April 8, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Chapel Hill, N. C.....	April 27, 1859....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	May 14, 1859....	Charles Manly
Huntsville, Ala.	May 18, 1859....	Henry C. Lay
.....		Richmond M. Pearson
Poplar Mount, N. C.	June 22, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Company Shops, N. C.....	June 30, 1859....	Charles F. Fisher
Hillsboro, N. C.	July 7, 1859....	William A. Kirkland
Beersheba Springs, Tenn.	July 8, 1859....	James H. Otey
Graham, N. C.	July 8, 1859....	W. H. Doherty

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Hillsboro, N. C.	July 16, 1859....	William A. Kirkland
Poplar Mount, N. C.	July 26, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Fayetteville, N. C.	July 28, 1859....	John MacRae
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 17, 1859....	Francis D. Koonce
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Sept. 1, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Morganton, N. C.	Sept. 9, 1859....	R. C. Pearson
Hillsboro, N. C.	Sept. 10, 1859....	John U. Kirkland
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Sept. 14, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Fayetteville, N. C.	Sept. 16, 1859....	George McNeill, Jr.
Washington, D. C.	Sept. 19, 1859....	Thomas B. Florence
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Oct. 5, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Duplin, N. C.	Oct. 6, 1859....	Jere Pearsall
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Oct. 10, 1859....	David L. Swain
Hillsboro, N. C.	Oct. 16, 1859....	John U. Kirkland
New Bern, N. C.	Oct. 29, 1859....	W. B. Wadsworth
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 6, 1859....	John W. Ellis
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Nov. 8, 1859....	William H. Battle
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 8, 1859....	D. W. Courts
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Nov. 30, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 2, 1859....	Wilson W. Whitaker
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Dec. 13, 1859....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 16, 1859....	Quentin Busbee
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 23, 1859....	Hamilton C. Jones
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 25, 1859....	Charles Manly
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Dec. 27, 1859....	Weldon N. Edwards
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Dec. 29, 1859....	David L. Swain
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Jan. 3, 1860....	Fordyce M. Hubbard
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Jan. 3, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 5, 1860....	Hamilton C. Jones
Snow Camp, N. C.	Jan. 15, 1860....	John Stafford
New York, N. Y.	Jan. 16, 1860....	Benjamin S. Hedrick
Snow Camp, N. C.	Jan. 24, 1860....	John Stafford
Graham, N. C.	Jan. 27, 1860....	D. A. Montgomery
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 28, 1860....	Paul C. Cameron
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Feb. 9, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 24, 1860....	Kenneth Rayner
Beechwood, Va.	March 5, 1860....	Edmund Ruffin
Weldon, N. C.	March 6, 1860....	Kenneth Rayner
Chapel Hill, N. C.	March 8, 1860....	George B. Johnston
Fayetteville, N. C.	March 12, 1860....	George McNeill, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C.	March 20, 1860....	Kenneth Rayner
Demopolis, Ala.	March 20, 1860....	S. Strudwick
Hertford County, N. C.	March 28, 1860....	Kenneth Rayner
Hillsboro, N. C.	March 30, 1860....	William Cameron
New Bern, N. C.	April 10, 1860....	Matthias E. Manly
Raleigh, N. C.	April 18, 1860....	D. M. Barringer
Raleigh, N. C.	April 18, 1860....	D. M. Barringer
Greensboro, N. C.	May 2, 1860....	T. M. Scott
Hillsboro, N. C.	May 8, 1860....	Paul C. Cameron
Shelby, N. C.	May 20, 1860....	A. G. Waters
Chatham County, N. C.	1860....	R. C. Cotton
Greensboro, N. C.	June 2, 1860....	T. M. Scott
Pilot Mountain, N. C.	June 25, 1860....	Nathaniel Boyden
Poplar Mount, N. C.	June 28, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Poplar Mount, N. C.	July 7, 1860....	James H. Otey
-----, Tenn.	July 18, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
-----, Tenn.	July 21, 1860....	W. H. Faucett
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 11, 1860....	William W. Vass
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 24, 1860....	Richard S. Mason
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Aug. 25, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
Sewanee, Tenn.	Sept. 5, 1860....	James H. Otey
Hillsboro, N. C.	Sept. 10, 1860....	Paul C. Cameron
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Sept. 10, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
Company Shops, N. C.	Sept. 18, 1860....	Charles F. Fisher
Company Shops, N. C.	Sept. 29, 1860....	Charles F. Fisher
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Oct. 1, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
Williamsboro, N. C.	Oct. 3, 1860....	H. H. Prout
-----, N. C.	Oct. 3, 1860....	H. H. Prout
Rockingham, N. C.	Oct. 4, 1860....	Walter L. Steele
-----, N. C.	Oct. 11, 1860....	F. J. Kron
Hillsboro, N. C.	Oct. 12, 1860....	Paul C. Cameron
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Oct. 16, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 6, 1860....	Kenneth Rayner
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Nov. 20, 1860....	George P. Bryan
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Nov. 23, 1860....	Weldon N. Edwards
Linwood, N. C.	Nov. 30, 1860....	W. R. Holt
New Bern, N. C.	Dec. 2, 1860....	Matthias E. Manly
Williamsboro, N. C.	Dec. 3, 1860....	H. H. Prout
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 7, 1860....	William W. Avery and S. P. Hill
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 11, 1860....	S. J. Person and R. R. Bridgers
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 12, 1860....	D. M. Barringer
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 19, 1860....	William A. Wright
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 25, 1860....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 25, 1860....	Charles Manly
Washington, D. C.	Jan. 4, 1861....	L. O'B. Branch
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 16, 1861....	Charles Manly
Davidson College, N. C.	Jan. 20, 1861....	Washington C. Kerr
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 21, 1861....	Paul C. Cameron
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 24, 1861....	Rufus S. Tucker
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 26, 1861....	Cadwallader Jones, Jr.
New York, N. Y.	Jan. 28, 1861....	Ward & Company
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 28, 1861....	Paul C. Cameron
Hillsboro, N. C.	Feb. 2, 1861....	Edmund Strudwick
Conemara, N. C.	Feb. 4, 1861....	Thomas P. Devereux
New York, N. Y.	Feb. 4, 1861....	Ward & Company
Washington, D. C.	Feb. 4, 1861....	John Tyler
Baltimore, Md.	Feb. 5, 1861....	A Southerner
Alamance, N. C.	Feb. 5, 1861....	William K. Ruffin
Hillsboro, N. C.	Feb. 5, 1861....	Edmund Strudwick
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 6, 1861....	D. W. Courts
New York, N. Y.	Feb. 8, 1861....	Ward & Company
Graham, N. C.	Feb. 11, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Graham, N. C.	Feb. 11, 1861....	D. A. Montgomery
Edenton, N. C.	Feb. 11, 1861....	William Badham
Alamance, N. C.	Feb. 15, 1861....	William K. Ruffin
Philadelphia, Pa.	Feb. 18, 1861....	Sarah Ruffin

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
New York, N. Y.	Feb. 18, 1861....	Ward & Company
Graham, N. C.	Feb. 18, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Washington, D. C.	Feb. 20, 1861....	W. N. H. Smith
Alamance, N. C.	Feb. 25, 1861....	William K. Ruffin
Weldon, N. C.	Feb. 27, 1861....	N. M. Long
Greensboro, N. C.	March 5, 1861....	John M. Morehead
Raleigh, N. C.	March 7, 1861....	Bartholomew F. Moore
Farboro, N. C.	March 12, 1861....	Robert R. Bridgers
Washington, D. C.	March 24, 1861....	John H. Wheeler
Brick Church P. O., N. C.	March 30, 1861....	W. R. Denny and others
Holt's Store, N. C.	March 30, 1861....	Edwin M. Holt
Washington, D. C.	April 2, 1861....	Bartholomew F. Fuller
.....	April, 1861....	Paul C. Cameron
New York, N. Y.	April 10, 1861....	Ward & Company
New York, N. Y.	April 12, 1861....	Ward & Company
New York, N. Y.	April 15, 1861....	Ward & Company
Haw River, N. C.	April 20, 1861....	George W. Swepson
Graham, N. C.	April 20, 1861....	D. A. Montgomery
Graham, N. C.	April 23, 1861....	J. S. Scott
Raleigh, N. C.	April 25, 1861....	Graham Daves
Fort Macon, N. C.	April 26, 1861....	Thomas R. Cain
Graham, N. C.	April 27, 1861....	D. A. Montgomery
Raleigh, N. C.	April 27, 1861....	Rufus S. Tucker
New York, N. Y.	April 29, 1861....	Ward & Company
Graham, N. C.	April 29, 1861....	R. Y. McAden
Graham, N. C.	April 30, 1861....	D. A. Montgomery
Graham, N. C.	May 3, 1861....	D. A. Montgomery
Fayetteville, N. C.	May 8, 1861....	Bartholomew Fuller
Norfolk, Va.	May 8, 1861....	Rowland & Brothers
Tarboro, N. C.	May 11, 1861....	Joseph A. Engelhard
New York, N. Y.	May 11, 1861....	Ward & Company
Fayetteville, N. C.	May 13, 1861....	Bartholomew F. Fuller
Graham, N. C.	May 14, 1861....	Gaston D. Cobb
Garysburg, N. C.	May 14, 1861....	D. A. Montgomery
Norfolk, Va.	May 15, 1861....	Rowland & Brothers
Raleigh, N. C.	May 15, 1861....	Kenneth Rayner
Garysburg, N. C.	May 20, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Weldon, N. C.	May 23, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr., and others
.....	May 24, 1861....	A. M. Scales
Weldon, N. C.	May 25, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
.....	May 25, 1861....	Kenneth Rayner
Good Spring, N. C.	May 26, 1861....	Augustine H. Sheppard
Raleigh, N. C.	May 27, 1861....	Quentin Busbee
Graham, N. C.	June 5, 1861....	R. Y. McAden
Chapel Hill, N. C.	June 7, 1861....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	June 12, 1861....	John A. Gilmer
Graham, N. C.	June 12, 1861....	R. Y. McAden
Raleigh, N. C.	June 19, 1861....	S. H. Christian and others
Richmond, Va.	June 23, 1861....	L. P. Walker
Richmond, Va.	June 24, 1861....	Peter W. Hairston
Richmond, Va.	June 25, 1861....	L. P. Walker
Hillsboro, N. C.	July 1, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin Roulhac
Raleigh, N. C.	July 5, 1861....	Kenneth Rayner

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Raleigh, N. C.	July 9, 1861....	Kenneth Rayner
Morganton, N. C.	July 10, 1861....	Edward L. Winslow
Hillsboro, N. C.	July 11, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin Roulhac
Company Shops, N. C.	July 13, 1861....	James G. Moore
Richmond, Va.	July 17, 1861....	Jefferson Davis
Raleigh, N. C.	July 18, 1861....	Kenneth Rayner
Hillsboro, N. C.	July 23, 1861....	William A. Graham
Raleigh, N. C.	July 26, 1861....	Bartholomew F. Moore
Alamance County, N. C.	July 28, 1861....	Jeremiah Holt
Fayetteville, N. C.	Aug. 1, 1861....	Edward L. Winslow
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 4, 1861....	Patrick Henry Winston, Jr.
Richmond, Va.	Aug. 8, 1861....	John M. Morehead
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 8, 1861....	Patrick Henry Winston, Jr.
Union Ridge, N. C.	Aug. 9, 1861....	B. Hazell
Camp Ruffin, Va.	Aug. 16, 1861....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 17, 1861....	Bartholomew F. Moore
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Aug. 24, 1861....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 15, 1861....	Bartholomew F. Moore
Rockingham, N. C.	Sept. 24, 1861....	Walter F. Leak
Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 27, 1861....	Bartholomew F. Moore
Hillsboro, N. C.	Sept. 30, 1861....	George Washington
Kinston, N. C.	Oct. 8, 1861....	E. T. Brodnax, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C.	Oct. 22, 1861....	W. R. Richardson
Fayetteville, N. C.	Nov. 7, 1861....	Jesse G. Shepherd
Petersburg, Va.	Nov. 18, 1861....	Cameron MacRae
Greensboro, N. C.	Nov. 23, 1861....	John M. Morehead
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 25, 1861....	W. R. Richardson
Richmond, Va.	Nov. 27, 1861....	Thomas Bragg
Graham, N. C.	Dec. 1, 1861....	Thomas C. Foust
Sandy Grove, N. C.	Dec. 3, 1861....	Jacob Garrett
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 3, 1861....	Thomas Carter
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 4, 1861....	John M. Morehead
Salisbury, N. C.	Dec. 4, 1861....	J. W. Hall
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 7, 1861....	W. S. Ashe
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 8, 1861....	W. S. Ashe
Saura Town, N. C.	Dec. 16, 1861....	Edward T. Brodnax
Salisbury, N. C.	Dec. 16, 1861....	John S. Henderson
Greensboro, N. C.	Dec. 17, 1861....	N. H. D. Wilson
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 24, 1861....	Kenneth Rayner
Roanoke Island, N. C.	Dec. 25, 1861....	Gaston D. Cobb
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 25, 1861....	Charles Manly
Wilmington, N. C.	Jan. 1, 1862....	Robert Strange
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 8, 1862....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 9, 1862....	Bartholomew F. Moore
Scuppernon P. O., N. C.	Jan. 30, 1862....	William S. Pettigrew
Haw River, N. C.	Feb. 3, 1862....	George W. Swepson
Salem, N. C.	Feb. 7, 1862....	Fries and Fries
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 8, 1862....	W. S. Ashe
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 10, 1862....	John M. Morehead
Alamance, N. C.	Feb. 14, 1862....	William K. Ruffin
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 17, 1862....	Robert R. Bridgers
Hillsboro, N. C.	Feb. 19, 1862....	Thomas Ruffin Roulhac
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 20, 1862....	W. S. Ashe
Gulf, N. C.	Feb. 27, 1862....	George Washington

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Wilmington, N. C.	March 3, 1862....	Robert Strange
Poplar Mount, N. C.	March 11, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
.....	March 17, 1862....	R. M. Abbott
Greensboro, N. C.	March 20, 1862....	John A. Gilmer
Poplar Mount, N. C.	March 23, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
Camp Ruffin, Va.	March 30, 1862....	E. B. Withers
Richmond, Va.	April 1, 1862....	Burgess S. Gaither
Wilmington, N. C.	April 1, 1862....	W. S. Ashe
Hillsboro, N. C.	April 3, 1862....	Paul C. Cameron
Wilmington, N. C.	April 13, 1862....	W. S. Ashe
Richmond, Va.	April 15, 1862....	Walter Gwynn
Kinston, N. C.	May 3, 1862....	John W. Brodnax
.....	May 6, 1862....	A. W. Price
Chickahominy River Va.	May 15, 1862....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C.	May 19, 1862....	Henry T. Clark
Company Shops, N. C.	May 21, 1862....	Henry T. Garnett
Danville, Va.	May 21, 1862....	William Coullinge
Hillsboro, N. C.	May 23, 1862....	Henry K. Nash
Richmond, Va.	May 26, 1862....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Tarboro, N. C.	June 2, 1862....	Robert R. Bridgers
Richmond, Va.	June 13, 1862....	Walter Gwynn
Raleigh, N. C.	June 20, 1862....	D. M. Barringer
Poplar Mount, N. C.	June 23, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
Petersburg, Va.	June 26, 1862....	Edmund Ruffin, Jr.
Fairfntosh, N. C.	June 27, 1862....	Paul C. Cameron
Raleigh, N. C.	July 12, 1862....	Kenneth Rayner
Drewry's Bluff, Va.	July 17, 1862....	John W. Brodnax
Raleigh, N. C.	July 27, 1862....	Kenneth Rayner
Poplar Mount, N. C.	July 30, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Aug. 4, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 18, 1862....	Quentin Busbee
Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 20, 1862....	David A. Barnes
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Sept. 22, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
Winchester, Va.	Oct. 14, 1862....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Oct. 17, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	Oct. 23, 1862....	D. W. Courts
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 8, 1862....	D. W. Courts
Petersburg, Va.	Nov. 10, 1862....	Andrew Kevan & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 18, 1862....	D. W. Courts
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 23, 1862....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 24, 1862....	D. W. Courts
Graham, N. C.	Nov. 25, 1862....	William H. Oliver
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 28, 1862....	Charles Manly
Petersburg, Va.	Nov. 28, 1862....	Andrew Kevan & Co.
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Dec. 1, 1862....	Weldon N. Edwards
.....	Dec. 1, 1862....	William J. Bingham
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 2, 1862....	Edmund Ruffin, Jr.
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 2, 1862....	Frank G. Ruffin
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 3, 1862....	John A. Campbell
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 6, 1862....	Kenneth Rayner
Hillsboro, N. C.	Dec. 7, 1862....	Matthias E. Manly
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 9, 1862....	John A. Lancaster & Son
Marlbourne, Va.	Dec. 17, 1862....	Edmund Ruffin, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 25, 1862....	Kenneth Rayner

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 25, 1862....	Charles Manly
Weldon, N. C.	Jan. 3, 1863....	John W. Brodnax
Richmond, Va.	Jan. 5, 1863....	Frank G. Ruffin
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 5, 1863....	Paul C. Cameron
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 12, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Jan. 13, 1863....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 15, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Richmond, Va.	Jan. 22, 1863....	James T. Redd
Hillsboro, N. C.	Feb. 5, 1863....	Paul C. Cameron
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 6, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 14, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 15, 1863....	James G. Martin
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 16, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 17, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Weldon, N. C.	Feb. 17, 1863....	Walter Gwynn
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 18, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 21, 1863....	W. R. Richardson & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 21, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 23, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 25, 1863....	Frank G. Ruffin
Ruthven, Va.	Feb. 26, 1863....	Edmund Ruffin, Jr.
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 26, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 27, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 28, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Goldsboro, N. C.	March 3, 1863....	George V. Strong
Company Shops, N. C.	March 4, 1863....	Peter B. Ruffin
Richmond, Va.	March 6, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	March 6, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	March 8, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Richmond, Va.	March 11, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	March 16, 1863....	P. A. Wiley
Richmond, Va.	March 17, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Richmond, Va.	March 23, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Hillsboro, N. C.	March 24, 1863....	Paul C. Cameron
.....	March 25, 1863....	G. W. Lee
Raleigh, N. C.	March 27, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Snow Camp, N. C.	March 27, 1863....	Solomon Dixon
Raleigh, N. C.	March 28, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Poplar Mount, N. C.	April 7, 1863....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	April 8, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Chapel Hill, N. C.	April 15, 1863....	David L. Swain
Panther Creek, N. C.	April 30, 1863....	Nicholas L. Williams
Richmond, Va.	May 20, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Panther Creek, N. C.	May 22, 1863....	Nicholas L. Williams
Richmond, Va.	May 23, 1863....	Frank G. Ruffin
Richmond, Va.	May 25, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Richmond, Va.	May 29, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	May 29, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Poplar Mount, N. C.	June 2, 1863....	Weldon N. Edwards
Richmond, Va.	June 11, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Richmond, Va.	June 19, 1863....	Frank G. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C.	June 24, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Richmond, Va.	June 25, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Greensboro, N. C.	July 9, 1863....	John M. Morehead

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Raleigh, N. C.	July 15, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	July 16, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Greensboro, N. C.	July 20, 1863....	James Sloan
Richmond, Va.	July 23, 1863....	William Preston Johnston
Dan River, N. C.	July 24, 1863....	R. M. Abbott
Shocco Springs, N. C.	July 28, 1863....	Henry A. Gilliam
Petersburg, Va.	July 29, 1863....	John W. Brodnax
-----	Aug. 1, 1863....	Matthias E. Manly
Petersburg, Va.	Aug. 5, 1863....	John G. Brodnax
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 13, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
-----	Aug. 15, 1863....	R. M. Abbott
Weldon, N. C.	Aug. 16, 1863....	John W. Brodnax
Fayetteville, N. C.	Aug. 17, 1863....	Edward J. Hale
Richmond, Va.	Aug. 27, 1863....	D. T. Williams
Hillsboro, N. C.	Aug. 29, 1863....	Paul C. Cameron
Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 12, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Richmond, Va.	Oct. 5, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Richmond, Va.	Oct. 5, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Weldon, N. C.	Oct. 9, 1863....	John W. Brodnax
Weldon, N. C.	Oct. 17, 1863....	John W. Brodnax
Richmond, Va.	Oct. 20, 1863....	Frank G. Ruffin
Waverly Hall, N. C.	Oct. 24, 1863....	Council Wooten
Raleigh, N. C.	Oct. 28, 1863....	Mrs. K. Cook
Raleigh, N. C.	Oct. 28, 1863....	George Little
Richmond, Va.	Oct. 30, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Nov. 12, 1863....	Weldon N. Edwards
Richmond, Va.	Nov. 14, 1863....	Lancaster & Co.
Richmond, Va.	Nov. 17, 1863....	Frank G. Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 26, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Richmond, Va.	Nov. 28, 1863....	Lewis C. Harvie
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 2, 1863....	Frank G. Ruffin
Dan River, N. C.	Dec. 4, 1863....	R. M. Abbott
Charleston, S. C.	Dec. 12, 1863....	Edmund Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 12, 1863....	William A. Graham
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 14, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Kinston, N. C.	Dec. 16, 1863....	Council Wooten
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 24, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 27, 1863....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 31, 1863....	Kenneth Rayner
Richmond, Va.	Jan. 3, 1864....	Frank G. Ruffin
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 12, 1864....	Paul C. Cameron
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 12, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Yanceyville, N. C.	Jan. 22, 1864....	Gunn & Bowe
Jamestown, N. C.	Jan. 23, 1864....	Delphina E. Mendenhall
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 23, 1864....	M. A. Curtis
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 23, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Richmond, Va.	Jan. 27, 1864....	Lancaster & Co.
Richmond, Va.	Feb. 1, 1864....	William T. Dortch
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 5, 1864....	David A. Barnes
Hillsboro, N. C.	Feb. 7, 1864....	Matthias E. Manly
Greensboro, N. C.	Feb. 16, 1864....	James C. Dobbin
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 18, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 21, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Hillsboro, N. C.	Feb. 26, 1864....	Matthias E. Manly

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Raleigh, N. C.	February, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	March 4, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	March 10, 1864....	Peter Mallett
Wilson, N. C.	March 12, 1864....	Drury Lacy
Greensboro, N. C.	March 17, 1864....	James Sloan
Raleigh, N. C.	March 18, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Graham, N. C.	March 20, 1864....	William H. Oliver
Graham, N. C.	March 20, 1864....	William H. Oliver
Raleigh, N. C.	March 21, 1864....	E. Burke Haywood
Raleigh, N. C.	March 25, 1864....	David A. Barnes
Weldon, N. C.	March 26, 1864....	John W. Brodnax
Raleigh, N. C.	April 1, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Greensboro, N. C.	April 1, 1864....	J. R. McLean
Plymouth, N. C.	April 22, 1864....	John W. Brodnax
Headquarters 2d N. C. Reg...	April 23, 1864....	William R. Cox
Raleigh, N. C.	May 11, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	June 4, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Chapel Hill, N. C.	June 13, 1864....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	June 15, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Poplar Mount, N. C.	June 16, 1864....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	June 16, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	June 23, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	June 26, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	July 4, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Graham, N. C.	July 8, 1864....	C. R. King
Poplar Mount, N. C.	July 11, 1864....	Weldon N. Edwards
Raleigh, N. C.	July 18, 1864....	George M. Foust
Raleigh, N. C.	July 18, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	July 18, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	July 20, 1864....	E. Burke Haywood
Raleigh, N. C.	July 21, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	July 23, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	July 25, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	July 27, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Laurel Springs, N. C.	July 30, 1864....	H. M. Stokes
Petersburg, Va.	Aug. 4, 1864....	John W. Brodnax
Moore County, N. C.	Aug. 9, 1864....	James W. Lea
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 15, 1864....	David A. Barnes
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 16, 1864....	Theophilus H. Holmes
Fayetteville, N. C.	Aug. 22, 1864....	E. J. Hale & Sons
Abingdon, Va.	Aug. 23, 1864....	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Petersburg, Va.	Aug. 23, 1864....	John W. Brodnax
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 26, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 31, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Company Shops, N. C.	Aug. 31, 1864....	Thomas Webb
Petersburg, Va.	Sept. 7, 1864....	H. M. Rich
Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 19, 1864....	Edward J. Hardin
Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 19, 1864....	Richard C. Gatlin
Graham, N. C.	Sept. 23, 1864....	William H. Oliver
Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 29, 1864....	Kenneth Rayner
Hillsboro, N. C.	Sept. 30, 1864....	Paul C. Cameron
Richmond, Va.	Oct. 4, 1864....	George Patterson
Raleigh, N. C.	Oct. 7, 1864....	Richard B. Baker
Dan River, N. C.	Oct. 7, 1864....	R. M. Abbott

<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written by</i>
Poplar Mount, N. C.	Oct. 9, 1864....	Weldon N. Edwards
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Oct. 27, 1864....	David L. Swain
Saxapahaw, N. C.	Oct. 29, 1864....	Mary J. D. Thompson
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 2, 1864....	Jonathan Worth
Fayetteville, N. C.	Nov. 3, 1864....	George McNeill
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Nov. 3, 1864....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 4, 1864....	Drury Lacy
Mebaneville, N. C.	Nov. 17, 1864....	B. F. Mebane
Snow Camp, N. C.	Nov. 25, 1864....	B. Davidson
Richmond, Va.	Nov. 30, 1864....	Lancaster & Co.
Amelia County, Va.	Dec. 2, 1864....	Edmund Ruffin, Jr.
Graham, N. C.	Dec. 16, 1864....	J. A. Haywood
Richmond, Va.	Dec. 20, 1864....	Lancaster & Co.
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 22, 1864....	S. F. Patterson
Raleigh, N. C.	Dec. 24, 1864....	P. A. Wiley
Alamance Co., N. C.	Dec. 29, 1864....	Mrs. Henry J. Albright
Fayetteville, N. C.	Dec. 30, 1864....	George McNeill
Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 7, 1865....	Jonathan Worth
Columbia, S. C.	Jan. 20, 1865....	Walter Gwynn
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 20, 1865....	Matthias E. Manly
Greensboro, N. C.	Jan. 24, 1865....	James Sloan
Hillsboro, N. C.	Jan. 27, 1865....	M. A. Curtis
Chatham County, N. C.	Feb. 1, 1865....	Junius A. Alston
Greensboro, N. C.	Feb. 7, 1865....	James Sloan
Fayetteville, N. C.	Feb. 10, 1865....	George McNeill
Edisto Island, S. C.	Feb. 11, 1865....	W. S. Bradshaw
Hendersonville, N. C.	Feb. 15, 1865....	N. Collin Hughes
Chapel Hill, N. C.	Feb. 15, 1865....	David L. Swain
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 20, 1865....	C. B. Harrison
Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 20, 1865....	Jonathan Worth
Raleigh, N. C.	March 1, 1865....	Jonathan Worth
High Point, N. C.	March 4, 1865....	A. R. Ronzie
-----, -----, -----	March 4, 1865....	R. M. Abbott
Raleigh, N. C.	March 6, 1865....	Jonathan Worth
Richmond Va.	March 13, 1865....	Lancaster & Co.
Hillsboro, N. C.	March 21, 1865....	Paul C. Cameron
Graham, N. C.	March 31, 1865....	J. L. Scott
Hillsboro, N. C.	May 8, 1865....	John W. Norwood
Raleigh, N. C.	May 8, 1865....	George W. Mordecai
Hillsboro, N. C.	May 11, 1865....	Paul C. Cameron
Richmond, Va.	May 23, 1865....	Frank G. Ruffin
Lacy's Mills, N. C.	June 3, 1865....	W. J. Lacy
Petersburg, Va.	June 9, 1865....	Edmund Ruffin, Jr.
New York, N. Y.	June 12, 1865....	John Potts Brown
Raleigh, N. C.	June 19, 1865....	C. H. Chesebro
Raleigh, N. C.	July 12, 1865....	L. E. Heartt
Richmond, Va.	July 14, 1865....	Lancaster & Co.
Chapel Hill, N. C.	July 31, 1865....	David L. Swain
New York, N. Y.	Aug. 1, 1865....	John Potts Brown
Raleigh, N. C.	Aug. 4, 1865....	George W. Mordecai
Hillsboro, N. C.	Aug. 6, 1865....	John W. Norwood
Company Shops, N. C.	Aug. 9, 1865....	G. M. Lea
Hillsboro, N. C.	Aug. 11, 1865....	Paul C. Cameron

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS HERE PRINTED

<i>Written by</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Written to</i>
H. I. Caldwell	Statesville, N. C.	May 20, 1859	Richmond M. Pearson
Edmund Ruffin	Alamance, N. C.	Nov. 7, 1859	George Watt
Jonathan Worth	Asheboro, N. C.	Mar. 10, 1860	George McNeill
H. H. Prout			Thomas Atkinson
D. A. Montgomery	Graham, N. C.	Apr. 30, 1861	Mrs. Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
Thomas J. Bright	Montgomery Co., N. C.	June 10, 1861	John W. Ellis
John A. Gilmer	Raleigh, N. C.	June 19, 1861	John Letcher
F. S. Stagg	Durham's Sta., N. C.	July 25, 1861	Paul C. Cameron
George W. Mordecai	Raleigh, N. C.	Nov. 21, 1861	Kenneth Rayner
Samuel A. Ashe	Wilmington, N. C.	Dec. 2, 1861	William K. Ruffin
J. G. Moore	Co. Shops, N. C.	Mar. 17, 1862	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
John W. Brodnax		May 9, 1862	William K. Ruffin
Paul C. Cameron	Hillsboro, N. C.	July 4, 1862	Sterling Ruffin
Alfred M. Scales	Richmond, Va.	July 5, 1862	Thomas Ruffin, Jr.
John W. Brodnax	Drewry's Bluff, Va.	July 17, 1862	Wm. K. Ruffin
Zebulon B. Vance	Raleigh, N. C.	Sept. 18, 1862	Weldon N. Edwards
Weldon N. Edwards		Oct. 4, 1864	David A. Barnes
W. P. Johnston	Richmond, Va.	Jan. 5, 1863	Frank G. Ruffin
Samuel F. Phillips	Raleigh, N. C.	Jan. 30, 1863	James G. Martin
Kenneth Rayner	Raleigh, N. C.	Feb. 19, 1863	Wm. K. Ruffin
Burton Harrison	Richmond, Va.	Feb. 25, 1863	Frank G. Ruffin
Henry A. Gilliam	Shocco Spgs., N. C.	July 28, 1863	Matthias E. Manly
Edmund Ruffin	Ruttiner, Va.	Mar. 28, 1864	Thomas S. Ruffin
Weldon N. Edwards		June 15, 1864	Jonathan Worth
Alfred A. Watson	Wilmington, N. C.	June 16, 1864	William H. Oliver
James N. Edmundson	Greensboro, N. C.	June 20, 1864	C. R. King
G. A. Trenholm	Richmond, Va.	July 19, 1864	Jonathan Worth
Thomas Webb	Hillsboro, N. C.	Aug. 31, 1864	Jonathan Worth
Thomas R. Roulhac	Johnson's Is., Ohio	May 18, 1865	Catharine Ruffin Roulhac

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS HERE PRINTED

Commission of Thomas Ruffin as State Proxy for the North Carolina Railroad, dated June 22, 1859.

Commission of Thomas Ruffin as delegate to the Peace Conference, dated January 29, 1861.

Circular from W. C. Jewett to the members of the Peace Conference.

Report of the North Carolina delegation to the Peace Conference, dated at Washington, D. C., February 27, 1861.

Report of Frank G. Ruffin on Subsistence, dated November, 1863.

Petition to President Davis in behalf of Tilman R. Vestal.

Substance of a contract proposed in April, 1865, by Paul C. Cameron to the negroes on his brother's and sisters' plantations in Orange County, N. C.

THE RUFFIN PAPERS

From Weldon N. Edwards

POPLAR MOUNT, 3d Jany, 1859.

I cannot tell you how much I was gratified by the receipt of your kind and welcome letter of the 30th ult:—but should have been more so, had it not reminded me that you were still burdened with the weighty duties of public office. Do not misunderstand me—I am not finding fault. I know that the best and noblest feelings that well out from the fountains of the Heart dictated your course. But I would have had you wear the badge—as the highest feather in your Cap—but decline the labors—with an expression of gratitude, that no measures had the Capacity to contain. I know I am taking liberties—but if one cannot take liberties with a friend this world is a prisonhouse, and life a dreary waste, but I have not yet found them so.

It is true, as you say my good friend, that all we have—and all we are—may be ascribed to the *principle* of our lives. The “*Mens Conscia recti*” has been our monitor and guide through the highways of untried life—and I am sure, we are both ready to acknowledge our indebtedness to a beneficent Providence and the kindness of good men for the blessings which have been ever lavished upon us. For my own part I early saw the wisdom of the first lesson in the first Chapters of the Book of life—“never to make terms with ones own self-respect and know no compromises in this Respect.” Similar to this is the rule of Conduct—first in rank and of more excellence than any other—prescribed in six monosyllables, by old Polonius to Laertes—“to thine own self be true.” I hope I have observed it—and when I am gone, all I desire should be said of me is, that “he tried to do right.” More than this, I never had the vanity to claim. How like your own sentiment—“He did his best,” the same idea but in a different dress.

I am much pleased that you and Swain set me down as concurring in your report, of its truthfulness, wholesome suggestions and sound conclusions I have no doubt. Indeed I am sure that no work could emanate from the labors of two such men that would not readily command my hearty assent. It would not be the least of its recommendations that it was the product of men of the *last Century*. Has it never occurred to you, my friend, that when the men of the present day shall surrender the stewardship of public affairs there will be a great lack of the *material* and leaven of the last Century—and that their successors will want the Hardihood of thought, the respect and consideration for labor and the vigilance over the Heart so necessary to render them safe Palinuri

through the storms and tempests of this world? We shall not live to witness Results. We can only leave behind our prayers that there may be a resurrection of at least a portion of pristine purity and pristine Habits. I know you will unite in this prayer.

* * * * *

From Joseph Murphy.

NEWBERN [N. C.] Jan 22/59.

I thought I would drop you a few lines concerning a grievance that the Democracy of Newbern labours under, it being the licence Law they make a man pay 60 Dolls for Licence to Retail spiritous Liquors in Town understanding that your opinion was at Variance with the En-corporators opinion I thought I would trouble you for the same, knowing that your opinion was the best in the State you will please answer me by return of mail and let us poor benighted people know what the last digest means, if you have any of your good turnip seeds please send me some and I will send the Money by return Mail. Capt Jos. Murphy.

N. B. I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance but I am a Democrat and support T. Ruffin to congress and am in weekly Recpts from him.

From John K. Ruffin.

WASHINGTON [N. C.] Feb'y 4th 1859.

I have heard from you frequently during the winter from acquaintances that have met you in Raleigh, but that occasional knowledge of your well-being does not afford me half the pleasure your affectionate letters do. I freely acknowledge I have failed to merit a letter from you, but my engagements professional and private form some palliation to my offence.

* * * * *

So far I am well pleased with my residence here. I have met with a very kind reception in many quarters and our success in practice has been very gratifying. During the month of January we booked a little upwards of \$525.00 and it has the reputation of being the healthiest month in the year. Nearly all our practice is in town, neither of us having been in the country a dozen times.

I am sorry you regret having resumed your seat upon the bench. I think it a very fortunate step; for had you spent this cold wet winter

footing it over the plantation as you usually do when at home you might have paid for it very dearly. I hope by this time you have entirely recovered from your cold; and I trust you will be very prudent with yourself. Unnecessary exposure at your time of life is too often coupled with imminent risk for you to treat our anxiety for you lightly.

I expect Dr. Tayloe and I are to have a hard time this spring. The scarlet fever has broken out in several places in town and should it become epidemic we will have more than we can attend to. I feel much anxiety on my baby's account. She is very liable to contract it from my being with it so much. At present she is very well and is a very interesting child except at night.

I see from a newspaper statement that a Mr. Curtis was lost on one of the Bay steamers that was burnt a few days ago. I am very much afraid it was Mr. Curtis of Hillsboro'. Could it have been? I trust not, for he has laid me under a debt of gratitude by his kindness to me when I was sick that I hope I may have an opportunity to repay.

* * * * *

*From George D. Boyd.*¹

SENATE CHAMBER N. C.

Feby 7th 1859.

Hon Thos. Ruffin.

My Dear Sir, Fully convinced that your name associated with the Commission to determine the line between N. C. and Virginia, would inspire confidence, and contribute greatly to avoid a controversy hereafter between the two States, And knowing that the Governor would take great pleasure to confer on you this Commission,—

I trust you will feel yourself at liberty to do so, and if so, please be so kind as to give your assent that I may lay the same before Govr. Ellis, it is proper to remark, that this course is at his suggestion.

Your Obt. Servt.

GEO. D. BOYD.

¹ George D. Boyd, of Rockingham County, member of the Commons 1840-1842; of the Senate, 1842-1847, 1852-1860.

From Joseph S. Jones.

WARRENTON

Feb. 14th, 1859.

My Dear Sir

I have two or three valuable friends who have recently been taken with the Southern fever and I am some what at a loss to know how to cure them. I hate very much to see our valuable citizens going off particularly as I feel so confident they will not better their condition.

My object in writing to you at this time is to ask that you will please do me the favor to send me a copy of your address delivered before the agricultural society at Raleigh some two or three years since. I had a copy but sent it to my wife's Father Mark H. Pettway formerly of Halifax County N.C. but now a resident of Wilcox County Alabama. If your address will not cure my friends I do not know what will. I dislike to trouble you Judge but hope you will excuse me and send me the address and you will very much oblige.

Your friend and obt. Svt.

JOSEPH S. JONES.

Honl. Thomas Ruffin
Raleigh, N. C.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT. 14th Feby. 1859.

I have wished every day to visit Raleigh—for the pleasure of talking with you about a thousand and one things—but the weather has prevented—to make a trip in its fitful state—I should forfeit your good opinion of my prudence—a quality you sometimes allow me. I hope however soon to see you—this day fortnight is our Court—I write to ask you on what day I shall send for you—and where? If the *weather permit*, I shall be at Court on Tuesday—and will bring you up with me, unless you come by and go down with me.

What think you! I shot two *small* sap-suckers, feeding on my sugar-maple, at a distance of 30 or 40 yds. and the day after killed with one fire 10 small black Birds. This will tell you how my vision is—as good as ever—I believe.

To tell you all I want to say—would fill much space. I have various Grafts for you—and seed for Mrs. R. God bless and preserve her to you!

May the physical evils of long life bear easily upon you—against the host of moral evils around us you have a panoply sufficient to protect you.

To Hon: Thos. Ruffin.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 19th: Feby. 1859

My dear Ruffin

I duly received your very kind letter of the 14th. and write only to say that on your arrival at Ridgeway the Sunday morning before court, you will find in waiting a conveyance to bring you to my House—and if weather permit—in my company.

And I excited your envy, did I?—by telling you I could see so well as to shoot sap-suckers and black-birds—those pests of the Fruiterer and the planter—(The *P[residen]t of the Ag: Society* should rather commend the fact.) Had I thought for a moment only, I would have said nothing to invite a comparison of eyes. But so trivial an *accident* could not, I am sure, have provoked your ire. You must have been crossed in the day by some tedious and wide o'the mark speech—full of crudities—giving neither entertainment nor elucidation—or did the dim light of the candle remind you that you cannot see as well as you once could? As to the quarrel you threaten I protest against its settlement at my House—it must be had on neutral ground where my privileges will be equal to yours. Be that as it may—you cannot prevent my wishing you all happiness in this and a better world. and assuring you—despite your growling—that I am, as much as I can be, your faithful and devoted friend,

W. N. EDWARDS

The Citizen says—

tell “Mr.” Judge Ruffin—Howd’ye.

To Hon: Thos. Ruffin

From Edmund Ruffin.

MARLBORNE, VA. Feby. 26, 1859.

The much larger portion of my observations made in the sundry explorations of lower N. C., still remain in manuscript. It was suggested to me, only yesterday, that it would be advisable, both for my object of having a respectable and impressive manner of publication, and for the interest of your state, for the legislature of N. C. to enable such a publication to be made, by engaging to purchase so many copies, as for a certain amount, as would secure the publication from loss, because of that want of extensive demand which it is the certain fate of every *southern* publication, without regard to its merit. I do not like to *appear* as an applicant for government bounty, even when well convinced that I would supply a much greater value in return. But I was the more

readily induced to act on this suggestion (*inter nos*) because I had lately received and read your State Geologist's report of his survey, and his agricultural observations of the same great swamp and low lands, which I had examined, and seeing what very small amount of value was therein returned to the agricultural interests of the commonwealth, for so much outlay of money paid from the treasury. I did not know whether your legislature might not be so near its adjournment, as to render any preparation of new business improper—even if there were no stronger reasons to oppose my plan. Not to lose more time I immediately wrote to J. Benbury esqr. whom only I knew both as a personal acquaintance, and as *certainly* a member of the legislature, stating my proposition fully, and also sending to him (by mail) several pamphlets referred to in my writing. I requested Mr. B. *not* to take any steps in the matter, unless, after consultation, he inferred that there was probability of approval by the legislature, and also time for action. I will not here repeat the details which I wrote to Mr. Benbury. But will refer you to him, and to my letter to him, if you deem it worth while. And if, in the opinion of yourself, as well as of influential members of the legislature, the proposition and plan might probably have, and also deserved the acceptance of the state, then (and in such case only,) I will be glad that you will aid the measure to such extent as may be in your power, and in such manner as you may deem entirely proper, and agreeable to yourself.

* * * * *

We have had the most rainy weather ever known. Not a furrow has yet been ploughed at Marlbourne, because the land was nowhere dry enough—and very little else done towards preparing for the crop, or for labors of farm improvement. Our love to you and your family.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 3d. March 1859.

You could not have been more disappointed than I was by your not being at Court. I could not impute to you want of memory and felt sure that punctuality was conspicuous on the list of your many virtues. Guess then my concern when I sent to Ridgeway for you Sunday morning, and brought neither you nor letter from you back. The next day I went to Court for you, (supposing you might be down in the train), and ready to undertake *any* business you might have for me. I became wearied with conjectures, and was not relieved till, on my way home, I found your letter of the 27th in the P. Office. I was much pleased that it was not worse than a mere blunder. I felt mortified tho' that you

should have so far distrusted your old habits as to confide in young America in a *matter of time*, for I have no doubt *he* belonged to that order who told you you had "fifteen minutes to get to the Cars." Such take "no note of time," and tomorrow is always as acceptable as the present moment. The propensity of the present age is to live without work, and that propensity begets an indifference to time or opportunity. You know so well all these things that I might have spared myself this sermon. I shall look for you at May Court and shall expect an order from you to send for you *some days in advance*.

I have been quite busy in assisting to build a School House in this School District. You do not know how much pleasure I derived from the opportunity thus afforded me of advancing the well-being of the children and G. children of old friends, who stood "in Loco Parentis" to me all their lives. This being now nearly finished, I am most busily engaged in upsetting and refitting my wife's Garden, moving flowers, laying off squares, parallelograms, triangles etc., etc. I am somewhat of a mathematician, tho' as you know, I never studied mathematics.

I have sent up to Dr. Hawkins to be carried to you a package containing Garden seed for Mrs. Ruffin, and two boxes of Cork Oak Acorns, *one* for you, the other for my good Cousin Rebecca E. Jones, but ask her to give part to my other Cousin Mary, wife of your son Brown.

* * * * *

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

*To David L. Swain.*¹

RALEIGH, March 16th, 1859.

My Dear Sir./

The coupons on part of the Stock held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund fell due on 1st Jany. and the residue will be due 1st April. Of course, it is to the benefit of the fund to invest the amount in other stock as soon as convenient. I did not think it worth while to put the commissioners to the trouble of convening for the sake of the January coupons, and I wish to save them that of coming together in April, if it can be done. I think it may, if you and Mr. Edwards will give me authority to bid to that extent for the bonds offered by the Treasurer for sale early in April, for, the Coupons are already in his hands, and he can, if he accepts our bid, retain both them and the stock until our next meeting, when the matter may be adjusted by our separating the Coupons and giving him a Warrant for the application of the amount to the purchase of the bonds, and directions to him to hold the bonds as a part

¹ From the Swain Papers, collections of the North Carolina Historical Society.

of the fund. I have mentioned the subject to the Treasurer, who sees no objection to it. If Mr. Edwards and you concur in these views, I will put in the bid; and I should like to have your directions as to the price I may offer. I hear from New York today, that the bonds, with interest from January, are selling at 99, with the expectation of their going up; and it, therefore, appears to me, that we might safely offer par. Indeed, I think, that it is rather our duty to do so, since the Treasurer is obliged to make large sales this year, and it is much for the interest of the State, that her stock should not be allowed to depreciate, if it be in the power of any of her functionaries to appreciate it. Be pleased to write me immediately, as I hope to leave this place on Sunday next, and wish, if the arrangement is to be made at all, to complete it before I go.

I am, Dear Sir, very truly your friend and Svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

I have written to Mr. Edwards likewise on this subject.

Hon. David L. Swain,

Chapel Hill, No. Ca.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 17 March 1859.

I have just received your letter of yesterday suggesting the course which you think may properly be pursued, with respect to the April coupons on stocks held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. I can perceive no substantial objection to the plan and as it will be most convenient for all acquiesce fully and cheerfully.

You are about closing a long and doubtless arduous term of the Court. The protracted illness of Judge Nash and consequent postponement of difficult causes, must necessarily have rendered it so. I regret that such a burden should have been imposed upon you, at the entrance upon your new career but have full confidence that when the reports come out your friends and the public will have ample cause of congratulation on the manner, in which you will be found to have sustained it and yourself.

[P.S.] I will probably have occasion to visit Raleigh, during Wake Superior Court, and will be glad, if I should happen to meet you then.

From Andrew Mickle.

CHAPEL HILL

17th March 1859

Mr. P. C. Cameron has been so kind as to suggest the possibility of my getting the position of Treasurer of the No. Ca. Rail Road

There are many things connected with my situation here, that keeps it from being as agreeable as it might be, all which matters too tedious for me to trouble you with, I have laid before my friends at Hillsboro, and have not yet been advised by them upon the subject, in the meantime I have taken the liberty of asking the favour, that you will give me your Opinion of the position (the Shops) as a place of business, the chance there is of my family getting the benefit of the Services of our Church, the health and character of the place and Neighbourhood, I of course would have to look forward to making a permanent settlement, and not depend too much upon so uncertain a thing as Office conferred by public patronage. My applying for the place will depend in a great measure, upon the disposition of the Directors to afford their Officers an Opportunity to place their families in a comfortable situation, this whole matter is so new to me, that I shall hardly have time and the information necessary to do the subject justice, and must beg my Dear Sir that you will add to the many kind favours already conferred Upon me, that of pointing out any difficulties you may see in my taking the step above aluded to.

*To David L. Swain.*¹

RALEIGH, March 19th, 1859.

My Dear Sir./

The Court adjourned this evening, and I shall, to my joy, go home Monday morning. But I shall have occasion to be in this city again the first week in April, and propose that we meet here on tuesday morning, the 5th, of the month—when you and I can complete the small business of the Sinking Fund with the Treasurer. Mr. Edwards concurs with us, and I shall put in a bid for \$2000, at *par*.

I have many times very seriously regretted having yielded to the persuasion of my friends to assume again, so late in life, judicial labours and responsibilities; and I cannot say, that I have ceased my regrets, though the duties have become less irksome than at first. Still, I find it a labour—not of love; and think, the place would have better suited a

¹ From the Swain Papers, collections of the North Carolina Historical Society.

younger and more aspiring man. True, my associations have been very agreeable: as much so as they could be; so that, in that respect I have nothing to complain of. But the effort on my own part—necessarily greater than it would have been if my mind had not been recently turned to other thoughts—is oppressive: especially so in the reflection, that at my time of life I can hope but little addition to my stock of knowledge, and must be content with holding what I have, if even that can be effected. It is not an agreeable feeling, in any situation, that one cannot grow in capacity for usefulness, though such growth be requisite to the maintenance of one's own reputation and satisfying publick expectation. Yet, being in, I will endeavour to go through in such a way, that people cannot say, I did not do my best to maintain right, or that I ever took away one man's property and gave it to another.

Ever and sincerely, Dear Sir, your friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Govr. Swain,
Chapel Hill.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 19th March 1859.

I did not receive till last evening your letter of the 16th Inst. which will account for the delay in answering it.

I like the suggestion that we may invest the Jany. and April Coupons without the trouble of convening, by authority to you from Swain and myself to put in a bid for Bonds under the proposals of the Treasurer early in April. I think such a course entirely proper—provided your bid is not *under par*, and accordingly consent and request that you make the same, and *at par*. It would not do for us to underrate the State's credit—it is not like a purchase in market overt.

I ought before this to have acknowledged the receipt by Dr. Hawkins of the two \$1000 and the one \$500 State Bonds you were so kind as to buy for me—and should have done so but for the safe Hands by which they were sent.

I have finished the School House and the Gardening—am now horizontalizing fresh land. Wheat seems too forward. I am delighted to hear you will be with me *two* or *three* days before May Court. Pray dont disappoint me and write me when to meet you at Ridgeway.

I am much pleased your labors are at an end for this "bout," and know you will renew your spirits and flesh in the interval. . . .

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From William H. Battle.

CHAPEL HILL March 31st 1859

The book you mention shall not be forgotten in making out a list for an addition to the State Library. Dr. Curtis's recommendation sanctioned by yours will be a sufficient passport to our favorable consideration.

I am afraid it will be some weeks before Governor Swain will be able to render me much assistance in the performance of the task imposed upon me. Upon my return home I found him quite unwell with a cold and very bad cough, and he is now confined to his bed for the greater part of his time with the disease. Dr. Jones thinks he will recover, though he will probably not be able to attend to his duties in less than three or four weeks. He has been very much worried by the misconduct of a division [of] the Freshman Class which has resulted in the dismissal of 25 of them. On last Sunday week they entered into a mutual agreement that they would not recite, and carried it out by every one's "fessing" as they call it. They were told that they must make up the lesson and recite it on the following Thursday at 12 O'clock. Six only of the division complied, and the remainder, 25 in number, after being called before the faculty and admonished, and urged to the performance of their duty sent in a paper signed by them all in which they declared that they never would make up the lesson. After some further attempt to bring them to reason, and an effort on the part of some of them to involve the other members of the class in their rebellious course, they were dismissed. This they thought the Faculty would not do, and the most of them regretted the step they had taken, but were too obstinate to retrace it. The sentiment of a large majority of the College are, I believe, against them and in favor of the action of the Faculty. At all events they have been permitted to go off without any disturbance, and college is now as quiet as ever. Most of the recusants will no doubt, soon petition to be readmitted and will be received back upon making a proper submission.

* * * * *

I am very glad to hear that your son William is doing so well, and sincerely hope he will recover entirely without the loss of his limb.

I am also much pleased to hear that you have derived benefit from the atmosphere and leisure of a country life.

To the

Hon Thomas Ruffin
Alamance N. C.

From William W. Kirkland.¹

U. S. MARINE BARRACKS
BROOKLYN N. YORK.

April 2nd /59.

My dear Uncle

I beg to make a request of you.

I have always desired to be in the Army. I deprived myself of this privilege by my improper course at West point; but that is past. In 1855 I was commissioned in the 1st Reg^{mt} of Cavalry by Mr. Davis,—but owing to my having been a Cadet, and my class being at the Point, at the time, I was not permitted to accept the appointment. To relieve my disappointment Mr Dobbin gave me my present commission. I have now been in the marine Corps. three years and better, and during that time have served in China two years. There I saw active service, and was fortunate enough to receive a distinguished notice from my Commanding Officer. But I am anxious to return to the Army, to my old regiment if possible, or to any regiment, but I would much prefer mounted service, I wish Mr. Floyd, to transfer me from the Marine Corps to the Army, and let me take rank immediately after my class, or, if he is willing to take my China service (active) into consideration, even above my class. This can be accomplished by influence. Would you object to addressing a letter to Gen^l Scott, asking his interference in my behalf, His hostility to the former Secty Davis, would probably induce him to espouse my cause with alacrity. My class have, all, graduated. And there is no further restriction on me. I do not like to blow my own trumpet. And I am not *boasting*. I was under a hot fire for three days in China, and for a much more trivial service, officers in Mexico, Army and Marines, received one or two brevets. If you can oblige me I will be obliged to you. My profession must be military. In the M. Corps I do not enjoy the professional advantages that are afforded to the Army. If you can bring any influence to bear in my favour as I said above, I will be greatly indebted to you. I trust you are in good health. I was very sorry that my wife and myself could not pay a visit to Haw River, We hope for that pleasure at some future time. I would send my love to all but I am unwilling that the home people or any body should know of this effort on my part to get into the Army, for I may not succeed. May I hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience?

I remain, with much affection

Your nephew,

WM. W. KIRKLAND
Marine Barracks—

Hon. Thomas Ruffin
Graham N. C.

Brooklyn,
N. Y.

¹ William W. Kirkland, of Hillsboro, was the nephew of Ruffin's wife. Dismissed from West Point, he entered the Marine Corps as a lieutenant and remained there until 1860. In the Civil War he was colonel of the Twenty-first North Carolina Regiment and became a brigadier-general in 1863.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 4th April 1859.

My dear Ruffin.

The last "Standard" states that the Directors of the N. C. Rail Road have declared a Dividend of 3 per Cent on the preferred stock of the State. What shall our Board do? Shall we meet, or would it be best for you to embrace the amount in your bid for State Bonds under the Treasurer's proposals? I see no objection to this latter course, if the bid be at *Par*, and should the payt. of the Div. be deferred a short time it may be practicable to make a suitable arrangement with Mr. Courts as he will hold both the Fund and the securities in his own hands—and the amount being large, our Board can meet at any time—as *soon as* you may appoint—and take appropriate measures. If you concur, you have my consent to this course.

I am afraid to say anything about Plantation matters, lest you set me down among your bragging friends. At all hazards, however, I will venture to tell you that I like much my preparation for a crop nearly all my manure is out and ploughed in neatly and well—mark that! shall manure from my Farm pens about 50 acres—will make out the rest with wheat straw and Guano—embracing in one field more than 300,000 Tobe. Hills—shall begin to plant corn next week—not more, in all, than 5½ acres to the hand—growing crop of Wheat the same—and the Tobe. crop 2 acres, so that my whole crop is but 13 *acres to the hand*. Call you this bragging? if so, the imputation will be upon the Truth—and then on whose head will be the sin? The wheat crop is most promising—but after so mild a winter—the Planter may fear the ravages of the Bug and the fly—upon both wheat and corn. Man proposes—God disposes.

I am quite delighted in anticipation of your visit before our May Court. You do not know how much pleasure I shall take in showing you my improvements—I will point you to many that even the Pres. of a St. Agr. Society may profit by. That all these things may be verified to you, I intreat that you will give me *not less than* three days. All well and cordially wish you and yours Health and Happiness. Now, that cheerfulness—Contentment, and every other blessing may wait upon you through life, will ever pray

Yr. devoted and unalterable friend

W. N. EDWARDS.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 8th Apl., 1859.

I regret much I did not receive in time to attend to your request your letter of the 2nd Inst otherwise instead of a letter by Dr. Hawkins I should have been with you in person on Monday. It so happens that none of your letters written on Saturday ever reach me before Monday they are mailed I presume, to Raleigh as a distributing office—and Sunday not being a mail day lie over till Monday.

It may be within our discretion to receive the Coupon Bonds proposed to be paid to us by Mr. Fisher, but as a general rule it is always safest (are there two *ees* in this word) for agents to proceed "*stricti juris*" and not go beyond their warrant under the plea that "it is the same thing." The Dividend is to be paid into the Treasury—and if we compound for that which the Treasurer would not or could not receive—how will he state a true and accurate account of the transaction. He will recollect—should we forget—that there are always many captious and jealous members of the Legislature—to whom an account is to be rendered—but in all this I shall cheerfully defer to your more experienced and better judgment. The thing, however, strikes me with much force—"we should allow only what the Bonds cost the Co." to give par for them, if they were purchased for less might beget a spirit of speculation in companies who have to pay us Dividends that might prove prejudicial not only to the S. Fund but also to State Credit. Recognizing this I only state a general proposition, and do not mean to arraign Mr. Fisher—who I believe to be an honorable man and valuable officer—and for whom I have a high personal Regard.

I am ready to meet you at Raleigh *whenever* you shall order. I truly regret the indisposition of our associate Mr. Swain—we cannot spare such men. From the Bottom of my heart I wish you a long life and good and the joys of Heaven in the end.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 27 April 1859.

Of all the events in the year Commencement not excepted, the one which I can least afford to be absent from the University, is the last in April. I am in the midst of the Senior examinations, and the report is to be read on Saturday morning. If the meeting of the Commission could be deferred until Saturday evening I would make earnest efforts to attend. I am at present free from disease and spend 6 hours in at-

tendance on senior speakings and examinations, but have not strength enough to walk from my residence to college. I hope to be well in a few days, but my strength returns very slowly. I hope most earnestly to hear soon that William's case has ceased to be considered critical.

Mr. Everett's ¹ oration is supposed to have been delivered with more than ordinary animation, here than elsewhere in this State, and was received with universal commendation. Its excellence, in my estimation, consists mainly in the analysis of the mental and moral characteristics of Washington, and his presentation of a single element, *punctuality*, was of more value, than whole volumes of speeches, characterized not unfrequently in the newspapers as of unsurpassable excellence. If the Trustees by an annual expenditure of \$500, could secure a lecture of equal merit from year to year, the expenditure would be amply repaid.

I left a sick room to hear him, not without apprehensions as to the effect, had a comparatively comfortable night, and found myself refreshed and invigorated the next morning.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From Charles Manly.

RALEIGH May 14/59

My Dear Chief Justice

I have just received your dolorous epistle upon the subject of freezes and thaws and freshets and the like—and that mill dam!! Truly your "suffering is intolerable." It was a long time ago, perhaps, before your remembrance, that Genl. W. L. Cowan of Bladen and Wm. Hill were candidates for the office of Secy of State. The contest was a hard one. Cowan was an educated man and thought to be the best qualified; but Hill had a family, was poor, and withal had very recently had his mill dam over Wild Cat branch broken; and these sufferings he rung on all the changes to the sympathising members. Hill carried the day; and Cowan, in explaining to his friends how it happened assured them that he would have been elected very easily if "Billy Hill's damned Mill dam hadn't broke." So you see the breaking of mill dams has been, *in all ages*, considered a disaster, but I hope you'll not cry about it, as the poor old Sec: did.

The Boys say you are a promising young Magistrate, do business mighty fast, and I hope you'll despatch your Alamance subjects with

¹ Edward Everett made a speaking tour through North Carolina in April, 1859, delivering his famous address on the life and character of Washington. He visited Wilmington, New Bern, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill.

their petty litigations and come down to C. Hill Commencement and help us to set every body to rights.

I have just returned from Chatham Court. Your old friend Anderson Crutchfield is on his last legs; there is certainly no danger in him now, if there ever was. There is not much fun going on there now; but the memory of Caje Foushee and Thrash. Neal and of Bill Smith the Bell Maker and id omne pecus is still fresh and I love to sit in the door of "Fort Snug" and "call to mind" how I used to see them fight and listen to their sage conversations and how in the evening they'd start home reeling on their little tackeys up gallows' hill and how they used to halloo! I find but few there of the old set.

I fear I'm getting old. Tempora mutantur. Bound to spout a little Latin—preparing for Commencement.

Yours truly

CHAS. MANLY.

[Circular]

NOTICE.

The Board of Trustees of the University of the South, is hereby summoned to convene for the transaction of business, at Beersheba Springs, Grundy Co., Tennessee, on Wednesday, the 10th day of August next.

By order of the Rt. Rev. the President of the Board,

HENRY C. LAY,

Secretary.

Huntsville, Ala., May 18th, 1859.

From H. I. Caldwell to Richmond M. Pearson.

STATESVILLE N. C.

May the 20th, [1859]

Dear Sir:—I trust you will pardon me, for asking your advice as to a matter of practice in the Supreme Court.

I have to day received the Reports of the last term of the Court—from which I see that in the case of P. P. Elliott vs. W. P. White—in Law Judge Ruffin who delivered the opinion of the Court committed an oversight or error, in affirming the judgment below, when he intended to reverse it.—

He understood evidently, that the Plaintiff got the judgment below as the Reporter states it—But the Record shows that, the plaintiff got a verdict, subject to the opinion of the Court, and that afterwards the Judge gave judgment of nonsuit and the *plaintiff* appealed not the defendant—as Mr. Jones has it, and as Judge Ruffin supposed.

And in pursuance of the judgment affirming the judgment Mr. Freeman sent down the certificate and, at the last court for Iredell a nonsuit was entered according to the certificate.

So that my client is entirely out of court with executions upon him for costs—when it appears that the only defence set up by the defendant was untenable.

Will this court upon looking at the record correct it or must I apply for a writ of error.

Col. Mitchell who appeared in the Supreme Court in the case is at a loss how to proceed, and is unwilling that I should act upon his advice alone.

It being a matter of practice I have thought that my application to you would not be improper.

*From Richmond M. Pearson.*¹

My Dear Sir:

The above will explain itself, I have written to Mr. Caldwell that the matter can be put right at our next term and I suppose the attorney of the dft. will allow it to be done by consent.

truly yours

R. M. PEARSON.

Judge Ruffin.

Commission as State Proxy.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

TO Thomas Ruffin, Esq. GREETING:

THE BOARD OF INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT, REPOSING SPECIAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN YOUR INTEGRITY AND KNOWLEDGE OF AFFAIRS, DO HEREBY COMMISSION

¹ Written on same sheet as preceding letter.

YOU Proxy to represent the State of North Carolina at the next annual meeting of the Stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad Company, AND IN ALL THINGS TO EXERCISE THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF SUCH APPOINTMENT ACCORDING TO YOUR BEST JUDGMENT AND DISCRETION.

(SEAL)

In Testimony Whereof, John W. Ellis, Governor of said State, and President Ex-Officio of our said Board, hath signed these presents, and caused the seal of said Board to be affixed thereto.

Done in the City of Raleigh, this 22nd day of June A.D., 1859.

JOHN W. ELLIS.

(By the Governor.)

Graham Daves,

Private Secretary.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 22d June, 1859.

* * * * *

You ask how I acquitted myself in the duties of Host—upon the late visit of my friend Buchanan¹—not badly—I think—I used no ceremony—felt no embarrassment—and *would wear the cocked Hat* altho' in the presence of the Commander in Chief of all the forces of the U. States—why not—I was upon my own domain—and, as I told him—doubted whether his jurisdictional powers were not suspended as soon as he crossed the boundaries of my *exclusive* possessions. I was much gratified that he and his *Cortege* seemed so much pleased with their reception and entertainment. My neighbors too and some from Warrenton and Virginia—thronged my House and yard—waiting his arrival—to greet and welcome him—this was unbidden Homage—from the Heart—to true worth and uninflated greatness. I need not say that both he and they were much gratified on the occasion—and I not less than they. I told him that all these men were of the “original Panel.” How I wished you here—and *he too*, as a dialogue between us on the Cars from Portsmouth will show. “My friend Judge Ruffin is one of

¹ President Buchanan visited the University at the Commencement of 1859.

the Committee of Reception," says he quickly "where is he?" "He may be at Weldon if his son's Health will permit—at any rate he told me he would probably be with you at my House."—"Ah. *I am glad to hear it.*" No trouble came to me from his visit—except the necessity I felt of meeting on the way. I went to Portsmouth to avoid the crowd and confusion at Weldon—and came with him to Ridgeway—where I left him—telling him what *he well knew*—I had no fondness for Pageants of any kind. I attended at Raleigh to meet him and take the Harness off him and bring him to my House. This we had agreed should be done on Friday Evening—but the pertinacity of those having him in custody prevented it till the next morning. So I was obliged to stay in Raleigh all night. I cannot say I was relieved when all was over—I felt *as if I had lost something.*

I know not now when I shall have it in my power to see you. I shall leave for the springs the last of next month—so cannot have the pleasure of welcoming you to Poplar Mount on your visit to Court in August—but Mrs. E. would do this more handsomely than I could—if you favor her with a call.

I am now in my Harvest—bad season for it—rain all last night—and still raining am obliged to stop my Reapers. Wheat too rank and thick to yield to them—when so wet. My scythes are going. It is a heavy crop and the best I ever had, but no doubt the yield lessened by the leaf-rust and bedding. My Corn is passable—the Tobc. crop fair and a good stand. I planted for 70,000 St. (*not too much* to the Hand) and have strong hopes of success. Indeed I will not permit any other expectation to haunt me. I have too much Philosophy for that. I cannot prize my Tobc. and get it to market as soon as I expected. Am obliged to stop for my Harvest. Have now and have had for some weeks 7 or 8 Hands in the House—from a dysentery—which pervades this whole neighborhood.

I can now distinguish the sexes of the sumatra fowls I promised Jinny—they are of good size to send. Shall I send them in a Box to Graham—or how? I am afraid they may be detained at Raleigh. I have also a pair for Judge Dick.

* * * * *

Hon. Thos Ruffin
c/o S. Court.

From Charles F. Fisher.¹

COMPANY SHOPS—N. C. R. R.

June 30th, 1859.

My dear Sir.

Enclosed here I send you the order to Conductors which will always enable you to travel on the Express Train.

If, when you go to Morganton, instead of travelling in the Stage all night, as is now the arrangement, you will let me know a week in advance, I can easily have you a more comfortable conveyance from the Rail Road through by daylight.

I am, very truly, Your friend
and Obet. Servt.

CHAS. F. FISHER.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

(ENCLOSURE)

No. CAR. R. ROAD

June 30th, 1859.

Conductors of Express Trains.

Will always let Judge Ruffin off at Graham Station. I leave with the Condr. North a memo. to stop at Graham Station for him going down.

C. F. F.

From William A. Kirkland²

HILLSBORO July 7th, 1859.

My dear Sir

Will you do me the favour to get Mr. Branch³ (M.C.) from this district to forward the accompanying letter to the Secretary of the Navy and to exert his influence to get me the orders I desire. You will see that it is an application for orders to sea in the River "La Plata" and on the coast of Brazil. The Steamer to which I wish to be ordered is now laying in the River La Plata, waiting for new *Boilers* and has only two officers on board. It is a matter of *extreme* importance to me that I should return to that Station, and for that reason I am willing

¹ Charles F. Fisher, of Rowan, president of the North Carolina Railroad. He went into the Confederate service in 1861 as colonel of the Sixth North Carolina and was killed at the first Manassas.

² William A. Kirkland was the nephew of Ruffin's wife. He entered the navy as a midshipman in 1850 and in 1859 was a lieutenant. He did not resign at the outbreak of the Civil War, and became a rear admiral in 1895.

³ Lawrence O'Brian Branch, 1820-1862, a graduate of Princeton, soldier of the Seminole War, member of Congress from 1855 to 1861. In the Civil War he rose to the rank of brigadier-general and was killed at Sharpsburg.

to lose two of the three months leave of absence lately granted me. The request has in it nothing of importance excepting to myself personally—and as some officer will have to join the vessel, I anticipate that my request backed by Mr. Branch, will be immediately complied with. . . . I intended going to Haw River last week but have an attack of Rheumatism, and stopped to give the Doctors a chance at me. Hoping that this will give you no trouble I remain

Sincerely your attd. nephew

WM. A. KIRKLAND

U. S. N.

Hon. Thos Ruffin

Raleigh N. C.

From James H. Otey.¹

BEERSHEBA SPRINGS GRUNDY COTY. TENN.

July 8. 1859.

Honl. Thos. Ruffin

My dear Sir,

I see from the Journal of your late convention that you are continued a Trustee of the "University of the South." The meeting of the Board of Trustees appointed for the 10th Aug. at this place, is likely to be a very important one: and I greatly desire that we shall be favored with your presence and counsels on that occasion. Bp. Polk² one of the Commissioners to collect funds, writes that the sum of \$320,000 has been secured from about 50 persons, leaving only \$180,000 to be secured by the 10 August.

Mr. John Armfield the Proprietor, of this place etc., requested me to ask you to make his house, where I am now staying, your place of sojourn, while you are in attendance on the board. Upon your arrival at Chattanooga remember to get on board of the *Nashville cars*, and check your baggage to Cowan—not to *McMinnville* but to *Cowan*. There (Cowan) you will change cars for the Train of the *Sewanee Mining Company* which will take you directly thro' the University grounds to *Tracy City* where you will be met by good four-horse coaches to take you over a good road 16 miles to *Beersheba*—where many will be glad to welcome you, but none more warmly

and cordially than your friend,

J. A. H. OTEY.

¹ James H. Otey, a graduate of the University of North Carolina in 1821, Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee, and with Bishop Polk founder of the University of the South.

² Leonidas Polk, 1806-1864, an alumnus of the University of North Carolina, who, after graduation at West Point, entered the ministry of the Episcopal Church. He was at this time Bishop of Louisiana. He entered the Confederate service as major-general, rose to the rank of lieutenant-general, and was killed at Pine Mountain.

*From W. H. Doherty.*¹

GRAHAM COLLEGE,
Graham, N. C.
July 8th, 1859.

To the Hon.

*Thomas Ruffin, Judge of the
Supreme Court, N. C.*

Dear Sir.

I am a candidate for the Chair of Logic and Rhetoric in the State University, recently held by Dr. Wheat.

I beg leave to inclose a copy of testimonials, of a very high order, received from the most eminent men of my native land, recommending me to a similar place in one of the Queen's Colleges, established by the British Government under Sir Robert Peel. Disappointed by political Changes, in that object, I came the U. S. and have during the last 5 years been professor of Logic Rhetoric and Belles-Lettres, in Antioch College, Ohio (see catalogues). I held that chair until pecuniary difficulties caused the temporary closing of that College, and then I came to try to build up a good school here. May I respectfully, but earnestly, request, that you will be so good as to glance over these testimonials (a copy of which I have left with Gov. Swain), and give your kind and favorable consideration to my claims—and vote according to your own judgment. I may add 1st. my election would give a representative to the Christian Denomination and thus increase the popularity of the University. 2nd I would enter, not as a new and untried prof. of those studies, but *well prepared* from my previous experience, to give Lectures and other instructions to all my classes, in the useful study of Logic in which many of our young Graduates are now deficient.

I do not mention as recommendations, but simply as facts, that ought, perhaps, to be known,—that I am, of course, a naturalized Citizen of U. S. and an adherent of the Democratic party.

If you can see your duty to the University and the public reconcilable with doing me the great favor of advocating my claims in this matter, you will deeply oblige me by doing so.

I remain,

Most respectfully, Yours,

W. H. DOHERTY.

¹ Rev. William H. Doherty, a native of Ireland, educated at Belfast Institute. After some years in the Presbyterian ministry in Ireland, he became a Unitarian and emigrated to the United States where he became a naturalized citizen, and a minister of the Christian Church. During the Civil War he served in the Union Army and during Reconstruction was an applicant for the presidency of the University of North Carolina.

From William A. Kirkland.

HILLSBORO N. C.

July 16th 1859.

My dear Sir.

I have this moment recd. your note from Mr. Branch,—and thank you very much for your kindness in the matter. It is a matter of great moment to me that I should return to that station and I accordingly applied for the Steamer “Meta Comet” as being the vessel most likely to require officers. The man Welch who wrote to Mr. Branch is the chief clerk in the Dept and never told the truth if he could possibly avoid it in his life. I am not anxious to leave home merely to go to sea, but only to return to the Brazil Station. If you can see Senator Bragg and get him to use his influence for me, I shall be much indebted to you. I shall leave here on Monday for Haw River. All hands here quite well.

I remain yr attchd nephew

WM. A. KIRKLAND

U. S. N.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Raleigh.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 26th July 1859.

I carry this to the office myself—*en route* for the Va. Springs. I never left home with so much reluctance. But Dr. Howard recommends it as needful to the restoration of my eyes, and I submit, upon the principle that it is every man's duty to do what he can to preserve all the organs Providence has blessed him with—lest he commit the highest of all crimes by abstaining from curative means within his reach. My general health was never better.

And so your Admirers mean to bring you before the Charleston Convention. God grant they may have the good sense and judgment to do so—and may success attend their efforts is my sincere and most devout prayer. But I hereby give you notice that if the Cocked-Hat be awarded you, I forthwith “cut your acquaintance”—for it has ever been a law with me never to recognize a partnership (of *any kind*) with any one “*bigger*” than myself.

I have only 2/3rds of my Tobc. in market, to be sold tomorrow, shall begin to get out my wheat next week, and sell, I think from 2500 to 2700

Bus.—shall not trouble you therefore with any request about state Bonds till my return, which will probably be the first week in September, when you may look out for fresh trouble from a friend.

Do write me, if but one letter, to the White Sulphur Springs, Green Brier Va.) Tho' in a fashionable and gay crowd I shall feel like one depending upon the Charity of friends to keep up and foster good spirits. You have not yet told me whether Jinny got the chickens I sent her, nor whether you and Swain bid for Bonds and how many.

Since I last wrote you I have sustained an irreparable loss in a favorite servant who died about a week ago. Candace, whom you recollect, who waited upon me so faithfully during my winter's confinement, was attacked with Typhoid fever and the best medical skill could not save her. I am sure I shall never be able to supply her place with one half so dutiful.

* * * * *

Hon: Thomas Ruffin
Raleigh.

From John McRae.

FAYETTEVILLE 28th July 1859.

I take the liberty of introducing to your acquaintance and of recommending to your favourable notice, so far as you may find him worthy of it, my Son James McRae.¹

I understand that something more is required than mere formal certificate of good moral character. James has been very little at home for the last 2 or 3 years having been engaged in teaching school in a neighboring State. I have the satisfaction however of knowing that previous to his leaving home he had the confidence of his Minister and of the officers of the church of which he is a member and I have good reason to believe that he has done nothing to forfeit it. He is a dutiful and affectionate Son. Four or five years ago when the loss of my sight obliged me to give up the Post Office, with a commendable spirit he commenced supporting himself by teaching a little school in the Western part of this County, where singularly enough his Grandfather at about his age had also taught a school about twenty years before.

You will doubtless be surprised seeing how plainly I write when I tell you that I cannot see to read one word of it myself.

I have long had an earnest desire, and it is daily increasing, to walk over the familiar grounds of Hillsboro and its vicinity and to greet

¹ James Cameron MacRae, of Cumberland, 1838-1909, after distinguished service in the Confederate Army, was a successful lawyer, member of the House of Representatives, judge of the Superior Court, associate justice of the Supreme Court, and dean of the University Law School.

again those to whom I feel so deeply indebted for so many acts of kindness. My recollections go back to the ford of the muddy Eno, Thompson's Tavern—the little Market House and King Georges Clock the strange red Jail, the White Court House—and Oaken railing the yellow stone, the Tanyard, the Locust Hedge, the Hospitable Mansion on the hill with three rooms and a garret, but never so small to accomodate any amount of company, although it might be necessary to make a *shake-down* in the Library, but above all the cheerful always cheerful faces of its inmates.—these are things to be remembered—and there is the Barn in the Grove which has been supplemented I learn by a Steeple, and the path *through* as we used to say instead of the Road round.

But you have seen all things changed, and probably after looking upon them changed as they are I may have something of the feeling that one has on looking at the corpse of a deceased friend, a wish to revive the recollection of his looks in life and health which the last look has unhappily obliterated.

When you return home (if you do not forget it) I beg you to make my respectful compliments acceptable to your wife and to all your children. I have heard something of a Golden Wedding which is proposed to be celebrated during the present year. I should like to hear more of it. If anything short of a Writ of Habeas Corpus would take me from home it would be to congratulate on such an auspicious event two persons whom I esteem so highly as I do those whom I understand are contemplating such a celebration.

Hon Thomas Ruffin.

[Address: Morganton.

by

Mr. James McRae.]

From Francis D. Koonce.

RALEIGH N. C. Aug. 17th/59.

Dear Sir:

I have taken the liberty of addressing you with this letter for the purpose of ascertaining if I could be allowed to prosecute the Study of the Law under your guidance and supervision from the time of your return from Morganton until the next session of the Court in this place. I had the privilege of attending Judge Pearson's lectures for one session, and have just returned from his neighborhood after having been unsuccessful in my endeavors to secure board and lodging at that place. Previously to my visit to that region I made application at a number of places in Chapel Hill, for accommodations; with a view of reading under Judge

Battle and Professor Phillips, but having failed there I continued my journey to Judge Pearson with the result already made known on the preceding page. I am apprised that you have no organized school, but presuming you would have no serious objections to receiving one student, I have deemed it expedient to advise with you in relation thereto.

I shall be very happy to hear your conclusion at your earliest convenience, and hope it will accord with the desire herein expressed. If it should be of this nature, you will confer an additional favor by informing me of the prospect for procuring board and lodging for myself and wife in a good family not *too remote* from your house. Permit me to refer you to Judge P. with whom I have honor to be acquainted and upon the most friendly terms.

My address is *Raleigh* for a short time.

With the highest

Respect etc.

FRANCIS D. KOONCE.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,
Morganton, N. C.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 1st Sept. 1859.

Having just returned from the Springs my attention is called to matters of business, in the prosecution of which I know no one I can so well call to my aid as yourself—for which I am afraid to offer apology—preferring your services to your rebuke.

I want then 2 N. C. State Bonds of \$1000\$ ea. (making my present investment only \$2500\$)—can you, without *much* trouble make the purchase for me? As soon as you can, advise me, I will send you a *sight*-draft on Petersburg for the Amt., or will do whatever else you may order or prefer.

My Crop of Tobe. and Wheat not yet all sold, I have not yet decided what projects, (toys of old age) may occupy my time and means in future. Apropos, I have sold 18 Hhds. Tobe. at an average of \$11½\$ Wheat at \$1.34. Have you done as well? A freshet on 5th Augst. injured my crop of Tobe. some 5 or 6 Hhds. shall still make, barring Casualties—more than I have ever made. Have men and double ploughs running, turning in much vegetable matter—not *for wheat*, but *Tobe.* *next* year.

I am most anxious to see you. Am ready to meet our Board at any time you may call me—no matter how soon.

I write this in Haste. Pray answer it as soon as convenient. . . .

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

From R. C. Pearson.

MORGANTON N. C. 9th Sep. 1859.

My dear Sir,

I recd. your favor of the 3rd Inst. on yesterday—strange that it should require so long to make the trip—it ought to have come to hand tuesday morning any way.

I am gratified to hear that your health is improving and hope ere long that you will be yourself again.

I still have a few N. C. 6 pr ct. Bonds and as I expect to leave for New York early next week had intended to dispose of them there. My correspondent there advises me of having sold 15 on the 2d Inst. at 96. I have no doubt but that those I have can be sold for the same, perhaps, a shade higher—be that however as it may, I am disposed to accommodate you rather than Wall street, and will let you have 3 Bonds of \$1000 Ea (the only kind we have) at 96c. You can enclose me the Dft. on Petersburg, to Portsmouth Care of Samuel M. Wilson Esq. and I will hand you the Bonds during the week of the Fair, or will make any other disposition of them that you may direct—I take it for granted that as we cannot accommodate you with over 2500, you would prefer 3 to 2000 dolls and need only say that if it should not be convenient to pay the bal. at the time I hand you the Bonds I would not object to extending the time to suit your convenience.

With Great Respect

Yr. Obt. Servant

R. C. PEARSON.

Judge Ruffin,
Graham, N. C.

From John U. Kirkland.

HILLSBORO Sept. 10/59.

My Dear Sir.

Your note I have just recd. and in reply beg leave to inform you that your supply of winter leather as well as 3 sides of black Harness such as will suit you will be ready for you by the last of next week.

I am sorry to hear you and John are complaining. These things we must look for as we advance in years, and hardly a gentleman whose advanced age and growing infirmities eight years ago had increased upon him so much as to disqualify him for the discharge of the highest public duties might be allowed now to complain of whooping cough or any other disease incedent to youth. It only confirms the suspicions I

have for some time entertained of you that you were renewing youth. I hope it will prove nothing worse in the case of both of you and that you may both yet live a thousand years, in the enjoyment of all your faculties and a full share of the pleasures allotted to mortals here below.

Yours very affectionately

JOHN U. KIRKLAND.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 14th Sept. 1859.

I duly recd. last evening, your kind letter of the 10th Inst. I cannot account for its being mailed and Postmarked at Goldsboro on the 13th (yesterday). Let me thank you for the purchase of the N. C. Bonds. I have today inclosed to Mr. R. C. Pearson a *sight* draft on N. M. Martin Bro: and Co., Petersburg, for two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2400\$) under cover to Saml. M. Wilson, Portsmouth Va, concluding to take only 2 Bonds \$1000 ea. and one of \$500, leaving the bal: for you. Mr. Pearson is advised accordingly.

My letter must necessarily be short, or it cannot, with others, be ready for today's mail, and to avoid a scolding, I promise to write in a day or so fully of and about myself. You will give me credit surely for losing no time in saying to you, I have promptly complied with the engagement. To hear that your Health does not improve and that my good friend Mrs. R. is also indisposed gives me the most painful concern. I pray for improvement to both. You truly say such ailments are but the wear and tear of long life. Say to her I lost not a Mail in ordering the Alum Water, and I hope it is by this time to hand. God bless you and her —and yours.

From George McNeill, Jr.

OFFICE NORTH-CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN,
FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. September 16th, 1859.

You have begun to think, I fear, that I intend to keep that portrait *for good*, but I write to undeceive you and say that I will send it up in a fortnight, by my brother-in-law who expects to make at that time a flying trip to Greensboro. James and myself have each a handsome copy (of the same size). Mine is framed at my house and James took his to N. Y. a few weeks ago, when he returned from a hurried visit he made us. He is in the enjoyment of very fine health, and I *guess* he

is about the likeliest nephew you have among the handsome boys who bear that distinction. My father's health has been very feeble at different times this summer, and we were very uneasy about him for a while in August, but he has rallied since, and we hope he will continue to improve.

How do you bear the fatigues of public life and professional duty? And how is dear Aunt Annie—our personation of all that is good and kind and gentle in woman nature?

* * * * *

My editorial work keeps me very busy—though the occupation is light—and seems to agree with my health. In fact I have no time to think about lungs or throat. I am able to preach almost every Sabbath.

* * * * *

May God bless you all.

Judge Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

From Thomas B. Florence.

WASHINGTON [D. C.] Sepr. 19th 1859.

My dear Sir.

Your earnest attention is invited to the *circular letter* and subscription paper accompanying this note, with a view to obtain your valuable and energetic co-operation in extending the circulation and promoting the usefulness of the *National Democratic Quarterly Review*, as a medium for promulgating sound principles, and as efficient auxiliary in furthering the success of the Democratic Party it is of unquestionable importance *at this time*. This fact conceded, your cheerful aid is confidently expected in behalf of the enterprise. Your subscription to the work, with *those of any friends* you may influence to patronise it, will be gladly received and gratefully remembered.

Truly Yr. friend

THOMAS B. FLORENCE.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 5th Octr. 1859.

Since my last I find that business will call me to Warren S. Court Monday—so that I cannot be at the Fair before Tuesday Evening in the

Train of that day—I shall remain all day Wednesday—and part of the next day—and will hold myself ready to meet you and Govr. Swain any time you and he may appoint during my stay.

I am now cutting over my Tobe. the 2d time shall finish this cutting tomorrow—and will more than fill all my Barns—leaving four or five thousand sticks out—for which I shall prepare my Cow House. My last wheat will go down this week—in all 2500 Bus. sent to market. Now none of this is written in a bragging spirit—whatever you may say to the contrary—but I have told you all about my crop—that you may not charge me as you have heretofore—with saying nothing about myself.

If it be in the way and entirely convenient and withall supply you with employment in your *many leisure moments*, I should be pleased to get one more State Bond of \$1000\$ for which I will check upon Petersburg—when *I see you* or *sooner* if necessary. I should have gone thus far in my first request, but did not see my way so clear as now—and you know I am two chary to venture much at *my time of life*. “Pay as you go” is the Philosopher’s stone. Debt I allways eschew. . . .

* * * * *

From Jere Pearsall.

DUPLIN N. C. 6th Octr. 1859.

Hon. Tho. Ruffin.

My dear Sir.

Having an abundant crop of the Tomato, my family have been experimenting with them in divers ways; and among others, undertook to make wine; a bottle of which I take the liberty to send you; not because of its excellence, but that the ball might be put in motion if it has not already started. I confidently believe a good Table wine could be made from this plant by adding acid of some kind. The process by us, was a mashing of the apples, then separating the fluid, clarifying it by dripping through a coarse bag, and to three measures of the prepared juice, we added 1½ pounds sugar and one measure of Apple Brandy, but before we added the Brandy my wife grated some nutmeg, to make it more aromatic. If you have experience in this matter I would be pleased to hear from you at your leisure.

I have desired to be a member of the State Society from its organization; but the annual meeting is held during the week of our Court where I have business. *Not on my account*, I take leave to suggest that your Annual Fair be postponed to a later period; The Superior Courts in

every district are in session at that time; and what is much more important, the Crops of Corn, Cotton, Potatoes are not matured; nor is Stock of any kind (unless petted) at its best at that time.

I respectfully request your reflections on this matter.

With much regard

Your Obed. Servt.

JERE PEARSALL.

[Address: Raleigh, N. C.]

*To David L. Swain.*¹

ALAMANCE, Octo. 8th, 1859.

My Dear Sir./

Mr. Edwards proposes a meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund on Wednesday morning, the 19th Inst., and, supposing that time to be as suitable and as convenient to you as any could be, I have informed him of our acquiescence, and now express the hope that you will attend. It is of importance you should, as the bid put in last summer for stock is to be closed, and also this is the period for the payments to the Fund from the *Treasury*, which—if made—will require some resolution of the Commissioners for its investment. Your presence will be the more important, as it is by no means certain, that my health will enable me, or, at least, render it prudent for me to be in Raleigh at that period, and the crowd probably to be then expected there. I am, thank God, much better than I have been; tho the improvement has been at the expense of a *raw chest* for a month from Croton oil, probably saving me from a settled pulmonary decline, if it shall have saved me. I may not therefore be able to go to Raleigh, or, if I get there, probably not be of much service in any respect: which makes it the more necessary that you and Edwards should, both, be there.

I am Dear Sir, truly and indeed yours,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

President Swain
Chapel Hill
No. Ca.

¹ From the Swain Papers, collections of the North Carolina Historical Society.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 10. Oct. 1859.

My dear Sir,

Your note of the 8. was received on the evening of that day. I know of no insuperable obstacle to my attendance at Raleigh at the time suggested, and no ordinary difficulty will be permitted to keep me away.

I have been greatly concerned at hearing repeated rumours of your continued indisposition and rejoice to have evidence under your own hand of decidedly improving health. God grant you speedy and perfect restoration. The state has rarely at any period of her history, exhibited an instance of such long continued faithful and efficient service, as you have rendered, and there is no one of the original panel with whose services she is so loath, or so little able to dispense.

Our Cousin Judge Battle left us for Richmond, a week ago this morning, and no advices have as yet been received from him. Letters are confidently expected to day. We have had very pleasant visits recently from my quondam colleague Bishop Green, and room mate Bishop Polk, who had not been here since we separated in 1823. His brother Genl. Lucius J. Polk ¹ was with him, and I have rarely at any time enjoyed such a reunion.

Yours very sincerely,

D. L. SWAIN.

Judge Ruffin

From John U. Kirkland.

HILLSBORO Oct. 16/59.

My Dear Sir

I am sorry I have not seen more of you was in hopes you would have rode down this afternoon. In accordance with a resolution passed at the meeting of the last State fair, I was appointed to collect funds in behalf of the institution for the County of Orange. I undertook the duty with pleasure but with very poor success, the people of Orange who do not intend to visit the fair had no money to give to the object and those who expect to be there said they would pay if they attended.

¹ Lucius Junius Polk, a graduate of the University in 1822, at this time a resident of Tennessee.

I have given Potter all I obtained say \$10

To wit

Wm. A. Graham	\$2.00
James S. Leathers	2.00
Dr. Pride Jones	2.00
J. U. Kirkland	2.00
Samuel P. Phillips	2.00

\$10.00

Will you do me the favor to hand the Amt over to the proper Officers and have the entries made so that there will be no difficulty to the different Gentlemen getting admittance upon this payt. of their annual contribution. Hoping that you may not receive any back set to your health by your exposure in the discharge of your duties

I remain

Yours Very Truly

JOHN U. KIRKLAND.

[Address : Hillsboro.]

From W. B. Wadsworth.

NEWBERN Oct 29 1859.

Dear Sir.

At the last meeting of the Union Agricultural Mechanical and Commercial Society at Newbern you were appointed an honorary member of that Society. I take pleasure in informing you of it and add my individual wishes to those of every member, that you would attend their first annual Fair to be held at Newbern on the 8th 9th and 10th of

I am respectfully your's

November.

With high regard

W. B. WADSWORTH

President.

Judge Thomas Ruffin.

To John W. Ellis.¹

ALAMANCE, November 5th 1859.

Sir.

It is my duty, I think, to resign the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court; and I now do so.

¹ From Governor Ellis's Letter Book, p. 132.

The office has been so recently accepted by me, that its resignation—especially during the recess of the General Assembly—seems to require a word of explanation; which, I trust, you will allow me to offer.

The call to the station at the last Session of the Legislature I regarded as so high an honour, that, with my habitual deference for that Body and my desire to serve my country, when I could do so usefully, I could not then decline it. But, certainly, I undertook it with much misgiving as to my capacity to perform its duties to my own satisfaction for any considerable period. You are aware, and the whole Profession must know, that the place is one, which not only requires learning and ability, but is also full of labour, to which health of body, as well as mind, is indispensable. At my age that was hardly to be expected, and the experience of the year evinces, that I am not an exception to the common rule. I have had considerable indisposition during each term of the Court, which I am obliged to attribute mainly, at least as to its duration, to the labours belonging to the office; and during the two Summer terms I have suffered from a cough and fever, threatening a permanent decline and materially interfering with the discharge of my official duties. I ought, perhaps, to have laid down office at the adjournment of the Court at Morganton; and I would have done it had I not thought myself obliged under the hope of regaining health, to serve as long as I could without improperly restricting your Excellency in the period you might wish for the selection of a Successor. The interval has not resulted in such improvement as would justify me in longer deferring my resignation. I find, I have taken on me too much, and I am satisfied, that I ought now to resign. For, it would be against the principle of my whole life to hold office without a moral certainty of doing its duties to the satisfaction of intelligent and good men, so as to reflect back on the Country some portion, at least, of the Honour conferred by so high a publick Trust. I cannot, therefore, anticipate the censure of a single one of my fellow citizens for seeking, in such a condition of things, to be discharged from services.

I must add, that I retire both with regret and the deepest sense of obligation to the Legislature and the People of the State for the oft-repeated proofs of their confidence, and with an earnest prayer to Almighty God for Peace and Prosperity in all our borders.

I am with great consideration, Your Excellency's most Obedient Servant,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

His Excellency
Governor Ellis,
Raleigh
No. Ca.

From John W. Ellis.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
RALEIGH, Nov. 6th, 1859.

Sir;

Your favor of yesterday resigning the office of Judge of the Supreme Court, is just at hand, and before placing it upon record in this office, or making any manner of publication thereof, you will allow me most respectfully, to beg that you will review your decision upon the subject.

In making this request, I know well that I but utter the sentiments and feelings of the people of North Carolina.

Your indisposition which has affected the public with a common sorrow, as is hoped and believed by your friends, will prove but temporary. And you may be assured Sir, that the people would bear with patience, any temporary absence from your post, arising from such a cause. You have now served North Carolina long and greatly to the satisfaction of the people, and I have every confidence that I am not going too far in saying, that even though it should be found necessary, that you should absent yourself during the entire Winter Term, it would give no discontent. I feel sure that the people would prefer this course to your resignation.

The Spring will bring, I fervently hope, a return of your good health. I should scarcely know how, at this time, to select your successor in this eminent and most important office. The Term of the Court is near at hand, and the Council of State widely separated, so that I could scarcely hope for a full Council at this Season of the year, within the time now remaining before the Court will meet. The selection of this high office is a heavy responsibility and I would prefer, individually, as I doubt not the public would, that it should devolve upon the Legislature.

It is true, mine would be but a temporary appointment, but the force of custom, which is strong, would bring to the support of the appointment more than his legitimate strength before the people. For which reason, I deem it better, consulting alone the public welfare, that the entire matter should be submitted to the Legislature in its inception and conclusion.

Hoping to receive from you a favorable reply, I have the honor to Subscribe myself,

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.

JOHN W. ELLIS.

Hon Thomas Ruffin
Alamance, N. C.

From Edmund Ruffin to George Watt.

ALAMANCE N. C. Nov. 7, 1859.

Dear Sir

My friend Judge Thomas Ruffin is disposed to try your ploughs—and if finding them suitable, to use them altogether. I have encouraged him to do so. He will write to describe particularly and to order one of each size that he will need at first, and before he will determine whether to adopt them altogether, or to buy no more. His long distance from you, and the expense and risks of transportation, preclude his *sending back* ploughs that should not suit, as I know you would readily allow to a purchaser of your neighborhood. It will be an important benefit to you if such a farmer and person as Judge R. is, and so well known to be, should approve and adopt your ploughs. Therefore, as well as for other reasons for my confidence in you, and my wish to serve him, I trust that you will omit no care to let him have precisely what he wants and that he shall have the means of fairly trying and judging of your ploughs. Accompany those first sent with all the instructions for their fixing which might be necessary for one entirely a stranger to them. Make a rough drawing of the manner of setting the double bars for three horses for the three horse plough. I have advised him to take your last improved pattern, which I think you call the “Hanover” plough—and to have only that kind, if you have them of all required sizes, and they shall be approved on trial. Not having myself tried this improvement, I cannot tell Judge R. which *name* or *numbers* to order, for a team of either 2 or 3 horses or mules. I know it is a common fault of patenters and manufacturers of farm machines and implements to call them by names indicating certain required powers of draft, (as a “three horse plough” or a “six horse thresher” etc.) which may be true for first rate animals or for a trial of two hours—but which would be short of the force required by a third, for ordinary horses, or even good mules, and for continued operations. Therefore attend to this—and by whatever name your ploughs are designated, if it requires more team power for regular and continued labors than the designation would imply, be sure to say so. The farm on which Judge R. resides, and for which he will order the first ploughs, is of red and mostly stiff soil, hilly, and much of it rocky—as much of our middle counties, from Amelia to Albemarle. His still more extensive and valuable land on Dan river, is lowground, and very like the Pamunkey flats.

The long distance, and the expenses and risks of transportation make the great difficulties of obtaining your implements here. It will be to your interest to lighten these difficulties, so far as you can do it by your previous arrangements for the transportation, and remote delivery. And

for your benefit, as well as for that of Judge Ruffin and other consequent purchasers, I trust that the whole transactions may be so satisfactory, as to open a large addition to the field of your operations and trade.

Respectfully

EDMUND RUFFIN.

George Watt esq.

From William H. Battle.

CHAPEL HILL, Nov. 8th, 1859.

My Dear Sir/

When your letter was brought to me, as it was about dark last evening I remarked to one of my family that I was afraid that it contained news that you intended to resign your seat on the Bench of the Supreme Court. My fears were caused by the reports which I, from time to time, had heard of the State of your health. I can say with the utmost sincerity that I deeply regret the resignation and the cause of it. When we parted at Graham last summer I indulged the hope that entire rest from business and the attentions of your family would relieve you in a great measure from your cough and other pulmonary symptoms, and that you would be able to perform your duty as usual at the ensuing winter term. I am truly sorry to find my hopes disappointed. I do not mean the slightest flattery when I say that there is no man in the State whose aid to the court I consider more valuable than your's. The Governor and council will deserve great credit, if they disregard every other consideration than that of appointing a successor who shall as nearly supply your loss to the court as possible.

I am very much gratified to find that your associations with the Chief Justice and myself have been agreeable to you. I trust that we shall both always feel grateful to you for your uniform courtesy and kindness to us. We shall, no doubt have occasion to call upon you for advice in relation to the cases alluded to in the close of your letter.

* * * * *

We had a very interesting time at the General Convention at Richmond, and I regret that you could not be with us. I think you would have enjoyed it very much. If we meet this winter, as I hope we shall, I shall have many interesting things to tell you, which cannot well be comprised in a letter.

With my kindest regards to Mrs. Ruffin and with wishes for your speedy restoration to better health

I am very truly your's

WILL: H. BATTLE.

To Hon. T. Ruffin
Graham N. C.

*From D. W. Courts.*¹

RALEIGH N. C.

Nov. 8th 1859

My Dear Sir

I regret very much to learn as I have today confidentially from Governor Ellis, that you have, in consequence of bad health, tendered your resignation as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

I hope you will pardon me for begging you to remain on the bench for the present in the hope that your health will enable you to be present at least at the sittings of the Court to advise with your brethren without taking an active part in its deliberations.

I think I know something of the importance which the public would attach to your mere presence on the bench without your taxing your faculties at all.

The members of the Assembly knew you were advanced in years when they sought you the last time to go upon the bench, and they would, I think, commend you for giving your presence only until the meeting of the next Legislature. I am confident the people would under the circumstances, in consideration of your eminent services to the State, bear with you to an extent that they would not with any other man.

In any event I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken and believe me to be

Very sincerely

Your friend

D. W. COURTS.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

*To John W. Ellis.*²

ALAMANCE, Nov. 14, 1859.

Sir:

I am sure you have a better opinion of me than to attribute to any want of respect the delay to acknowledge your letter dated the 6th inst. Although written at that time it only reached me today; a delay not less vexatious to me than it can be to yourself, as under these circumstances my reply ought to be immediate.

Your good opinion, expressed in your letter, is most fully appreciated

¹ Daniel W. Courts, of Surry, 1802-1884, a graduate of the University in 1823, member of the Commons, 1831-1833, 1836; state treasurer, 1850-1862.

² From Governor Ellis's Letter Book, p. 142.

by me. It is indeed beyond my deserts; and if anything could overcome my convictions of duty on the occasion, I could not resist your request. My health is much improved, and if I were sure it would continue even its present state, I should certainly have felt obliged to remain in service until the meeting of the Legislature at least, but it is very unstable and I am quite sure its restoration depends on rest and freedom from the responsibilities and mental labor and excitement incident to the judicial duties in the court of the last resort, and consisting of only three members.

I ought not to retain the office on the expectation of an absence from its duties by reason of anticipated defect of health; and it is probable that, from that cause I should either be enforced to such absence or by engaging in my proper work imperil my life, that I am constrained as a matter of conscience to repeat to you my wish to retire. I cannot undertake what, it is highly probable, I may not be able to perform.

I am, Sir, with the highest respect, your obliged and most ob'd't ser'v't

THOS. RUFFIN.

His Excellency
Governor Ellis,
Raleigh, N. C.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 30th NOV. 1859.

My dear Ruffin.

It gave me great concern to learn by your letter from Wilson, that the effects of the Climate and water in the low Country had obliged you to return home sooner than you contemplated—and, I fear before you had accomplished your business. Pray write me immediately on receipt of this how you are, and all about yourself. I sincerely hope that the comforts of home, with quiet and rest to both body and mind, and the good nursing I know you will receive from Mrs. Ruffin, will speedily restore you to wonted health.

Last evening I recd. a letter from Mr. Courts, informing me that he made the purchase of the Bond for me at 98, and requesting me to forward to Mr. Pearson at Morganton a check for \$980, which I did accordingly by today's mail. I advised Mr. Courts of the same, stating at the same time the cause of your not seeing him on your return.

I was asked by the Deputy Sheriff yesterday at Court, whether you had authorised me to pay your taxes in Warren. I told him the reason you had not done so, and would have paid him, but knew the Amt was

unascertained. I referred him farther to Eaton. Can I serve you in this matter? My cold and cough are worse than when you were here. Mrs. E. is somewhat unwell. Bad colds prevail.

Kindest Regards to Mrs. R. and all yours. With every assurance that I am and shall ever be yr. affectionate and constant friend

W. N. EDWARDS.

From Wilson W. Whitaker.

RALEIGH Dec. 2nd. 1859.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the Executive Comt. of N.C.S. Agr. Society yesterday, the following item in Mr. A. M. Gorman's account to wit.

"1858

July. "To printing 1000 copies Dr. Sorsby's Essay on Draining, by order of Executive Committee" \$40.00

was referred to me for settlement, with instructions to enquire of you whether or not the Society was bound for the payment. As the copies of Dr. Sorsby's Address have not been received or used by the Society and none of us recollects any order for the publication (rather printing) thereof, we deemed it best to consult you, before deciding the question of payment. I recollect a conversation between yourself and Mr. Gorman at his office, in which you expressed the opinion, that if he would publish some Extra Copies of Dr. Sorsby's Address in pamphlet form, that he would in all probability find sale for them. This is all the information I have of the matter. Hoping that you may find it convenient to give an early answer and *earnestly* desiring for you renewed health I am truly your humble friend

WILSON W. WHITAKER.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 13th Dec., 1859.

You are probably aware that the Trustees are to meet next Monday, for the purpose of filling the vacant professorships of History and of Rhetoric and Logic. I hope for a more than ordinarily full attendance, and am very anxious that you should be present.

I hope not only to meet you but to meet you in greatly improved

health. In addition to questions connected with the vacancies, other interesting and important subjects will probably come up for consideration.

Judge Ruffin

From Quentin Busbee.

RALEIGH N. C. 16 Dec'r 1859.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance.

Dear Sir—Permit me to present my sincere thanks to you, for the appointment of Secretary to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, and through you to the Board. I regret that I was absent at the time of your meeting, which would most certainly not have been the case, had I known that a meeting was at that time contemplated.

Gov. Bragg has handed me the minutes. By the next meeting I hope to have the books prepared in accordance with the Act. Any suggestion in relation thereto, or any other duties required of me, will be thankfully received.

Very respectfully

Your ob't Servant

QUENTIN BUSBEE.

*To David L. Swain.*¹

ALAMANCE, Decmr. 23rd, 1859.

My Dear Sir./

I regretted my inability to obey your summons to Raleigh on the 19th; for, I always feel the obligation to join in council when called, and especially to sustain your views unless—which can seldom happen—upon clear conviction to the contrary. But the weather and delicate health prevented my attending. It turns out, however, that my absence was of but little moment, as I learn from Cameron, who left me this morning, that all things turned out to your satisfaction, though, perhaps, some not entirely to his.

I hope the next appointment for our meeting in Raleigh may be better kept than that last was by me. I have to communicate to you that, agreeably to instructions, I bid for \$70,000 of State Coupon bonds with Interest from 1st Octo, which the Treasurer offered the latter part of November, with the understanding that the Commissioners of the

¹ From the Swain Papers, collections of the North Carolina Historical Society.

Sinking Fund would meet early in January to close the matter. The bid was successful, as Mr. Treasurer writes me. I have therefore appointed Monday the 2nd January for that purpose. It is important to the Treasury, that the meeting should then take place, as the money will *then* be needed by Mr. Courts for the payment of State debt then falling due. The fund we derived from the 2 pr ct dividend of the No. Ca. R.R. on \$2,000,000 of Stock and that on the Raleigh and Gaston R.R. Stock, and the Coupons on bonds now held by us. I have given the same notice to Mr. Edwards; so that I shall expect all of us to be present. With unfeigned regard, Dear Sir,

your friend,
THOMAS RUFFIN

[Address: Chapel hill, No. Ca.]

*From Hamilton C. Jones.*¹

RALEIGH Decmr. 23d. 1859

I have much reason to believe that an effort has been made (not from the best motives) to impress the Supreme Court with the opinion that my Reports of their decisions are very poor, unskilful, and unsatisfactory to the profession; and I am inclined to believe that at least one of that body (not the best qualified himself, to judge of such matters) is biassed against my reappointment by these efforts. I have had many testimonials to the contrary of this opinion of my labors and have never heard a complaint of this character from any other quarter, and I am persuaded there is no ground for it. It would be consolatory to know, and might be of service to me with the court, that your estimate of my Reports is favorable. If you will be pleased to give me an expression of such an opinion it will add a lasting obligation to the many I already feel bound to acknowledge.

The loss of my office at this juncture, having given up all my practice for it, would be severely felt by me and this must plead my apology for obtruding upon you this request.

¹ Hamilton Chamberlain Jones, of Rowan, a graduate of the University in 1818, member of the Commons, 1827-1829, 1838-1842, 1848; at this time reporter of the Supreme Court.

From Charles Manly.

RALEIGH 25 Decr. 1859

My Dear Ch. Justice

The "Christmas gift" has been duly recd. and that too, without hanging up a stocking.

It is magnifique. I return you the thanks of myself, "Wife, Children and friends" and have no doubt that I shall sing that song at dinner today as my Wife says she will allow "we children" two Bottles of Champagne in honor of the occasion—That is a good song, "any how." It is the same that Sam Carson sung for Mr. Calhoun at the great feast given that Gentleman in this City. In the simple days of the Republic singing was quite the go. But with all your accomplishments (dancing for instance) I don't think you were any great Dapster (adept, in English) at singing. I, you know, was a rouser at the business—in the plaintive notes of the "Light House" as well as the sentimental flings in "Barney let the gals alone."—But alas, poor Yorick! my strains are now pretty much confined to the sympathetic lay of "Sir Jerry go nimble was lame of a leg." It was, you know, your ignorance of the Hieromelian art that got you in to that difficulty, when you had to whip the Chatham Bully. I am now fighting my old rheumatic enemy Puquis and calcibus etc., and trying to get myself in good order either for attack or retreat by the time the "John Brown" Screechers come along.

I want to knock down a John Browner so bad I *dunno* what to do.

I don't think the Country will *bust up* yet. The People will save it, in spite of Politicians, Demagogues and Fanatics. It cant be possible that the Advocates of Treason, murder and stealing can overturn and destroy this great Confederacy. But I'll stop, lest I get to *cussin*.—But just look at Congress!!

I miss you, my Dear Fellow, very much. We Younglings, born in the last century, are the salt of the earth. I hope when you come down you'll stay with us. Your successor has taken possession of Fort Snug bodily—but we will give you the best room and the best bed in the house.

Give my best love to your family. Bid them for me (not in modern degeneracy, "the compliments of the Season) but an old fashion, Chatham, "Merry Christmas and a happy new year" and be sure and tell Miss Patty that if I was a handsome and smart young Fellow and was clear of the rumatiz that I'd court her before Saturday night next.

Yours, faithfully and truly

CHAS: MANLY

Prof: Deems D. D. L. L. D. A. S. S.!!

Shake not your gory locks at me.
 "Thou can'st not say, I did it."

Out of the 15 Trustees present, 6 myself among them did not vote at all;—and of the 9 Ballots put in 2 were blank—so that he was elected by the skin of his teeth.

It is thought that he will not accept. So much the better. The concession to the Methodist persuasion will be secured; a whole File of John Wheelers crushed out; and the duties of the Professorship assigned to the Professors of Roman and Greek Literature and to the Prest.—the best plan, in my opinion, after all.

A characteristic letter from Dr. Hawks was read. He is anxious now to come to his Old State and take a soldier's position. The crisis, he says, is not only impending, but inevitable.

We must fight and he wishes to be one "uv em."

This page may as well be regarded as private and confidential and burnt up forthwith.—

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 27th Decr. 1859.

I had the pleasure to receive yours of the 24th last evening—and will—God willing—meet you and Bro. Swain at the Treasurer's office next Monday. I will on the arrival of the Train on that day repair immediately to the place of meeting—where I shall expect you to be—unless we arrive at the Depot at the same time. Our business can soon be finished and in that event, I desire to be at Home the next day. Every prudent planter should be at Home the beginning of the year, in order to start things rightly. I have besides a job on hand.

No more till I see you—much then to talk about. We are all well—have had a quiet cheerful Christmas. The Citizen in constant intercourse with "Santa Claus," and every way contented with the merri-ments of the Season. I read your compliments to him. He guessed at once it was from "Mr. Judge Ruffin" "because it said so much about him." You have certainly made a lodgement in his affections. So you are not without the good will and affection of my whole household, and you may be assured we will never cease our prayers for your Health—happiness and prosperity—and of all whom you love.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin
 Alamance.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 29, Dec. 1859

My dear Sir,

You do not state in your note whether you desire our meeting take place in the forenoon, or the evening. As Mr. Edwards will scarcely leave home on Saturday and you in your state of health ought not to set off before day, I will make my arrangements to go in the evening train.

Dr. McGuffey writes me that Mr. Hepburn will be with us by the 13-. *proximo*, and that he expects to accompany him. I received a letter from Dr. Deems, to day, neither accepting nor declining, but calculated to make the impression, that he will decline.

Yours very sincerely

D. L. SWAIN

From Fordyce M. Hubbard.¹

CHAPEL HILL, Jan'y 3d 1860.

Dear Sir.

The Editor of the New American Cyclopedia (Appletons) has desired me to prepare among others, for that work, a Memoir of your life. I am disposed to undertake it, if I can have from yourself such facts and dates as you may think most fit for such a history. The sketch must, from the nature of the work, be very brief, including very little more than facts and dates. It will give me great pleasure to put them in order for him, and trust you will not shrink from having made such a memorial of what your friends think eminently worthy of it.

I am with great regard

Yours most truly

F. M. HUBBARD.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 3d Jany. 1860.

I am sorely disappointed in not being able to attend at Raleigh yesterday. The snow of saturday covered the ground some seven or eight inches in depth—no thaw yet—freezing all day yesterday and last

¹ Professor of Latin in the University.

night—at 8½ O'clock Thermometer stood at 8°—this morning at Sunrise 6° below Zero. I never knew it so cold in N. C. We could not therefore meet—indeed—we should not—knowing the importance of our meeting, nothing but such extreme cold could have prevented my traveling. I hope however the public Treasurer will act, if indispensable, upon the faith that we will certainly, *at an early day*, do all that may be right.

I write only to ask that you will appoint another day for our meeting and to say that I will certainly attend if physically able. It is so cold, I can scarcely command my pen—the Ink is frozen and my fingers stiff. So God bless you and all your Household.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From Hamilton C. Jones.

RALEIGH Jan'y 5th. (Tuesday) '60

My very much regarded friend.

You were pleased to ask me to write to you of the result of the probation to which I have been subjected for a few days past and I know it will gratify you to learn that I was this evening re-appointed to the office of Reporter. I have a lurking idea that your favorable wishes in my behalf in some manner reached the ears of the Judges and had their desired influence. At all events I am under great obligations for your advice in regard to the letters from the profession. So many had doubted the propriety of my submitting them that I had well near given up the purpose until you assured me that it was eminently proper. I have no doubt but that those letters had an auspicious influence with their Honors. After all I feel that I have been harshly dealt with; I have tried very hard to discharge this office well, and with the assistance of my son Ham I feel confident that my work was never done better than during last year. No one of the profession uttered a word of complaint and yet I could hear that the two Judges you left on the bench intended to turn me out for delinquencies and misdemeanors of a humiliating character. I met some of them with the letters above spoken of—the rest was indefinite but armed with a triple vengeance which was to come down upon me upon this day of wrath! I told you how I heard this and I believe it was intended. I have heard something like this every time I have been reappointed except the last and one other time. I do assure you it very trying to my patience thus to be *imperilled* at each recurring election. I have no doubt that undue pains have been taken to prejudice Pearson upon the subject of the literature! and that in part explains the matter. I assure you that this greatly qualifies the ingredi-

ent of success and will by no means lead me into a jubilation against which you were so kind as to caution me.

God bless you my dear Sir. Dont take the trouble to answer this rambling epistle for there is nothing in it to put you to that trouble. I fully intend to come to see you this winter and we will talk over things *ore tenus* My best respects to your family

Adieu

H. C. JONES

From John Stafford.

SNOW CAMP N. C. 15th Jan 1860.

Dear Sir,

After my unfeigned respects to you and your family permit me to say that I deeply regret to learn that you have so alienated your friendship towards me as to give currency to the report that a correspondence and intimacy had existed between myself and John Brown of Harpers Ferry notoriety. Permit me here to say that if it was to be read before me in judgement to-morrow I declare there never has passed one word of correspondence between him and myself either written or verbally and if any communication to that effect is ever produced it is a base forgery. I have always since my arrival at maturity endeavored to treat all my fellow mortals as I would wish them to treat me and not now recollecting that I have maltreated any man I am a loss to know why it is that there is such strenuous efforts to injure my reputation can it be that any rational man believes the small amount to be made at it in time will more than balance the dreadful retribution of eternity if such is the belief of any I beg leave to enter my protest against it in all cases beside my own and once for all time declare that while intellect remains, I will not suffer my tongue to herald anything against my neighbor which is of doubtful character. Whilst this slander was repeated only by those whose sphere it is to tell wonders it was easily kept at bay but since it has been sanctified by your name it has become a more difficult task. I have written a letter (which will be mailed at the same time with this) to Gov Wise of Virginia stating the facts as they are and if he is a just man we shall soon have some light on a dark matter and if (as I hope he will) he gives the information truthfully I should not be surprised if the legitimate parent of the whole affair turns out to be one who has often sat with you on the Court Bench. If however, the Governor should pass me unnoticed will you please write to him and

satisfy yourself I am unwilling to believe that you would injure one by telling or repeating that which you know to be false.

I am as ever

Sincerely your friend

JOHN STAFFORD

Hon T Ruffin

P. S. I omitted to say that I think John Brown merited his fate as any man that is executed for Treason and murder it is altogether a strange Philanthropy to me that will murder one man to release another from servitude.

J. STAFFORD.

From Benjamin S. Hedrick.¹

15 WEST 26TH ST, NEW YORK.

Jan 16, 1860

Hon. Thomas Ruffin:

Dear Sir;

When I was at the University I believe you were always my friend, and however we might differ on some subjects we could always agree in matters of Science. My object in writing to you now is to ask you if you can not use your influence to arrest the terrorism and fanaticism which now so much disturbs the South. If the same spirit of terror, mobs, arrests and violence continues it will not be long before civil war will rage at the South. Some of the men recently arrested are among the best men in the state, men who by upright lives have received the esteem and love of their fellow men. There is an effort now to subject them to a persecution that will be a blot on the honor of the state, And this can be arrested only by the intervention of the honest and upright citizens. The laws should protect the people, but they do not, What the rights of individuals are under the laws you know, In order that you may have an opportunity to know also what offence is laid to some of these men I send you a copy of Helper's book. You will find that not a word in it is addressed to either free or slave negroes, That most of the sentiments that are current in the state and attributed to this book, are the fabrications of the New York Herald. Please examine the book and see if there is any thing in it that one free-man may not properly address to any other. For myself I am free to admit that I do not approve of every proposition advocated in the book, nor with the manner in which some good propositions are maintained But unless we tolerate difference of opinion we must have a despotism at once.

¹ Benjamin Sherwood Hedrick, formerly professor of chemistry in the University, who had been dismissed in 1856 because of his belief in the principle of free soil.

I send you also a copy of a pamphlet the original of which was published in Greensboro, N. C. in 1830. It was not then treason to discuss slavery, and to print opinions adverse to the system, Is it now treason to do so? Please look at this pamphlet and compare it with some of the sentiments of Judge Gaston as contained in his Chapel Hill address.

With highest esteem and regards etc.

Yours truly

B. S. HEDRICK

From John Stafford.

SNOW CAMP N C 24th Jan 1860

Dear Sir

Yours of the 20th Inst. conveyed by private hands is before me and contents carefully and particularly noticed you can scarcely imagine the relief afforded to me who had been under long and constant bodily affliction with character basely Calumniated to find the moderation expressive kindness and Magnanimity of your communication had I had a lingering doubt that you had not expressed yourself as believing the report true I should not have troubled you on the subject therefore it is due to myself to state something of the grounds on which I came to the belief. My informant (in confidence) stated as I understood it your neighbour Thomas Foust said to him that after all my declarations to the contrary there was something wrong about me that Gov. Wise had a letter of mine to Brown for Judge Ruffin said so not qualifying it by saying that he understood he said so my informant further stated that he at once stated he did not believe it for he had heard me say it was not so one of the company remarking that he reconed Judge Ruffin was right that gov. Wise had my name for he had furnished him with it. My informant is a relation of Mrs. Ruffin and I supposed it was correct hence I supposed the gentleman who claimed the Honour of furnishing gov Wise with my name had furnished you also as I have no doubt he has Judge Saunders and hence my letters to gov Wise and yourself. Having stated the grounds of my belief and why I wrote to you permit me to thank you for the friendly and Christianlike tone and sentiments of your answer nothing in my judgement would go farther to allay the present dangerous strife in the country than a disposition in all parties and classes to forbearance kindness and respect for each others opinions such as is shown in your letter now before me. I thank you for your kind admonition and think from the spirit in which it is given you will not take offence in my endeavours set you right in some information you must have had which is not correct and also to admonish you a little for it is good sometimes to admonish one another in kindness. You

state that much was said some years ago about me giving entertainment to two vile Emisaries brooks and McBryde in the first place I think you are misinformed about the character of the men and in the second place how was I to judge of their character and if their character was even bad where is the Law either Human or Divine that forbids me to feed and shelter white men. First then they came duly certified with the commission of Ministers of Religion from the Methodist Wesleyan Church of Ohio to Preach to their members who refused to go off with the Methodist Church south this is or ought to be a good recommendation. I heard them Preach perhaps two or three times each and heard nothing more than I have heard Preached by the Quakers from my earliest recollection true they were mobed and drove out of Guilford but I suppose you will not hesitate to say that that is not legal evidence of crime. I have always since I owned a house taken in all persons of decent appearance without asking what nation, state, party, sect or profession they belonged to they getting their food and shelter and I getting reasonable pay for it never entered into my head or heart that I was transgressing either the laws of God or Man, if it is so I have never saw it in our revised code and certainly it is not included in the Apostolic admonition "If thine enemy hunger feed him if he thirst give him drink," How would you and I relish it if we were on business in Ohio or New York and men who call themselves Christians were to refuse us the absolute necessities of life because we hailed from a state where Slavery existed and they had good reason to think we did not like their nation of freedom. I should not take it for Christian kindness neither do I think you would and I think none at this existing time if my old neighbour John Newlin was to call at your gate to get food and lodging for the night that you would not turn him off although I assure you he entertains the same opinions about Slavery that brooks and McBride did, and again if I was to go into these extremes I should have to dislodge the partner of my bosom who has faithfully performed her duty in assisting me to live nurseing me when I was sick and cheering me when I was cast down and I too knowing her sentiments before the ratification of the treaty that made us one Household. I am anxious to know my duty and still more anxious to do it and if you (as you surely do if it exists) know of any law in our statute book as a state or as a nation or any revealed law of God that forbids this plain duty of man to his fellow man you will do me a kindness to point me to it for which I will thank you for of a certainty no man should be condemned where there is no violation of Law. Presuming you to be with me entirely so far as the greatest good to the greatest number and the Peace and quiet of society in our borders are concerned in all kindness and a friendship which I hope will never be broken let me warn you never to give countenance or encouragement to acts unauthorized by law such as you say has been done even by Guilford men. It is certainly

a dangerous expedient as is now practiced not only by guilford men and salisbury men and vigilance committee men but strongly encouraged by members of the State council or at least by one of them (see December Nos. of the Western Democrat) all these lawless procedures done or encouraged to be done in violation of Law and order whether by the high or the Low will tell one day in the future this practice once fairly introduced will require more than the Eloquence of "Mr. Gorrell" for restraint. Let blood once be shed in this indiscreet manner amongst a people divided as we are by different Politics sects interests and sentiments and soon those sowers of the wind will be able to reap rich Harvests of the whirl-wind perhaps there is no class in North Carolina that can raise a larger male force than that class that possess but little else than moral polution having no property to destroy, no conscience to overcome, no God to fear, they can make fearful strides in the way of distruction. I also think that the arresting of native citizens on doubtful evidence will have a bad effect such as has been furnished through malice to take vengeance on some person the informer does not like and make the state pay the cost; such for instance as has been furnished Judge Saunders in the case of Mr. Vestal and myself take Vestals case for an instance by the interference of two men he was assailed in his school and turned out against the wishes of the entire committee and in going home was taken from his shop by a bench warrant from the Judge chained like a felon, taken to Raleigh without the privilege of eating or warming, from early dawn untill night, then ordered to prison until next day; all this done without a particle of evidence (as I am credibly informed) that he Vestal had violated a single law. I am not cognizant of the facts that may be brought against him at Chatham Court but I know Mr. Vestal to be a prudent young man of good standing and unless he should be guilty of crime his arrest and abusive treatment will not be approved by his friends nor neighbours. If we should be unwise enough to propigate and foster hatred and unfriendly feeling amongst ourselves we shall have sufficient business at home without applying to either Spain or Mexico. In conclusion I assshure you I am for abiding the laws as they are, impartially administered if there is still crimes not covered by the present code they had far better go unpunished than to set the bad example of punishing without law. May our Beneficent Creator enable us to know our duty and create in us a disposition to do it. Sincerely your friend.

JOHN STAFFORD.

From D. A. Montgomery.

GRAHAM Jany 27 1860/.

D. Sir

Mr. Wm. H. Faucett begs honor to say through me that he is an applicant for the appointment of Depty. Marshall for this county, and respectfully asks your aid in promoting the appointment, in the event Mr. S. S. Turners petition is withdrawn, or he fail to press his claim.

Respectfully,

D. A. MONTGOMERY.

Thos. Ruffin Sen. Esq.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO Friday Jan 28th 60

* * * * *

I need 50 bushels of "the Simon Pure Winter Oats—free from "Onion seed" and all other impurities to seed "my bottom land" at this place. Can you help me out in this boat. Will gladly pay the highest market price for the article—and as I wish to seed the grass seed instanter will be greatly obliged by a prompt response. If I cant get the oats shall have to seed it in wheat—which I do not wish to do as I have no conveniences here for saveing that crop—and the better reason that I need oats here for my horses—and not wheat. I have from the old Quaker Morris 300 Dolls worth of seed for this bottom—have in lime and guano \$400 besides a large quantity of home made manure to make "it come up to high water mark. This you will say is foolish and high farming and so it is—but it is the "only folly" that I am chargeable with for a long time unless it be that I sought to be elected in Orange County *without* the use of whiskey. There shall be "one bright spot" in old Orange—if Lime guano and all sorts of Conjuraction can make it. I have a very great wish to show you the "best stables ever built in Orange (at Stagville) 135 feet long covered with cypress shingles at a cost of \$6 per thousand. This is Benehan's affair—our boy. I should like to show you a crop of Tobacco, it cant be beaten in Rockingham! but it will be worth nothing and wont long as it will bring me no cash and less fame. I have 110,000 brick more towards the New Ho. and it is a hard job to keep all up square. Fools build houses etc.

I have had a letter from Mr. K. P. Battle in behalf of the Committee requesting me to deliver the Address at the State Fair! To this I said No Sir-re Bob Jenkins. brick-making, tobacco cutting, wheat seeding,

don't allow the time for such affairs, besides I may have to go to N. Y. I must be on my place in Miss in the next 30 or 35 days, and shall take with me a family of 40 slaves. But you will call me Mr. Ego. I can only say I write *so* to no one else—will that excuse me! . . .

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 9th Feby 1860.

I have been resolving for weeks to write to you but suppose I am getting lazy—like yourself—for I cannot otherwise account for your long silence. I do not say it is the want of the will but judging by myself it is the “vis inertia” of old age. At any rates tell me the reason for it gives me concern sometimes to think it may be indisposition—for such cold weather as we have had often perpetrates sad havoc upon one at our time of life. I have weathered it *pretty* well by almost jailing myself and keeping good fires. I have at times a severe pain in the left shoulder, which they say is rheumatism—but I have no doubt is the offspring of *dry bones*—the essential oils and juices are wanting.

My last to you was on that cold Tuesday in Jany. telling you why I could not meet you at Raleigh. I recollected that a visit to Raleigh at a very inclement season was the precursor of my severe afflictions last winter—and for heeding such a lesson had no doubt you would allow me the credit of prudence at least. Not having been called again by you, I suppose you made some satisfactory arrangement with the Treasurer about our business. Apropos I see in Comptroller's A/c this item—Expense Acct. on sinking fund \$103.75. The Papers state that the N. C. Rail Road has again made a Dividend upon the preferred stock. Do you propose a meeting?

Our court meets the 4th Monday the 27th Inst. I suppose you will attend what day shall I send to or meet you at Ridgeway? You will find me in waiting according to orders.

A neighbor has just come in whom you must thank for escaping the affliction of a long letter—for I must close or lose the mail of today. I will take time to offer to my old friend Mrs. R. and all your Household my kindest remembrance and mo. affe. Regards.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
near Graham, N. C.

From Kenneth Rayner.

CONFIDENTIAL

RALEIGH N. C.

Feby 24th 1860/.

My dear Judge,

The grape vines and cuttings and apple-trees have arrived in good order and condition—and I thank you for them.

My vines ordered from Augusta have arrived, and are all set out.

Well the convention of the “opposition” party has come off, and they have passed a resolution in favor of *ad-valorem* taxation and recommending a convention to change the Constitution, so as to enable the Legislature to pass such a tax-bill.¹ I voted against it—and I will not sustain, but will oppose it before my people. Mr. Badger made a speech in favor of it—and Gov Graham who was here is also in favor of it. It was carried by an overwhelming majority—many Eastern men voting for it. I wish I could see you and talk to you. I could tell you many things about influences which have been at work that would astonish you. As to the effect of this thing—as to the prospect of its being engrafted on our state policy—all now depends upon the action of the Democratic Convention, to meet here on the 8th March. I have conversed with several prominent Democrats and I think they are inclined to oppose it. If the Democratic convention also endorses it—of course the measure will go through the next Legislature with but little resistance. If the Democratic Convention takes ground against it, there will be to a very considerable extent a reorganization or recasting of parties.

You insisted in my staying and attending the convention of my party, to oppose this thing, and I was in great measure influenced by your wishes. Now I beg of you to attend the convention of your party for the same purpose. I think the prominent Democrats are disposed to take ground against the measure, but they are evidently alarmed, and need the aid and strengthening influence of able, calm and dispassionate men of their party. By coming down here and attending the Convention you may prevent the carrying out of this mischievous and pernicious measure—for such I regard it.

I expect to leave for Hertford tomorrow, and to be back in a week and I shall be here at the time of your convention. Come down—Come to my house and stay with me. I want to talk to you very much.

In the Standard of to-day is a notice of the proceedings of the Convention, which is calculated to make a very unjust impression in regard

¹ The Whig party in North Carolina retained its organization and identity until the war, and the use of the name was usual, although frequently “opposition” was used as in this case. In 1860 it made a strong bid for the support of the non-slaveholders by demanding the *ad-valorem* taxation of slave property.

to some remark I made in reference to federal politics. It does me no decided injustice. I intend to-night to write a note to the editor of the Standard and put myself right. So suspend your judgment, till you see my correction.

Yours sincerely,
K. RAYNER.

Hon. Thos Ruffin
Graham, N. C.

From Edmund Ruffin.

BEECHWOOD, March 5th, 1860.

* * * * *

I have lost all hope of any early visit to us from you and Mrs. R., or any of the family in any short time. I need not say what pleasure it would give to me and to all of my children. But though I fear that I shall do all the visiting between the two families, I will at least do my part—and hope that I may be again with you before very long, to spend a few days. I think of going (as a spectator only) to the Charleston Convention in April—and to call at Alamance, either going or returning, if I shall not make you a special visit earlier.

Our legislature, by the operation of the new constitution and the convention or caucus machinery which now makes all elections, is becoming weaker and more worthless every year. It does not represent the people either in intellect, or zeal in regard to the present condition of affairs. Nothing has been done of all the measures proposed, except the bill for arming the state, and if that had not passed early in the session, and was now under consideration, it would now meet with much more opposition, and be much reduced in its effectiveness. I will send with this two Nos. of the Index, containing some of my views as to the other chief movement, through the Committee on the “Harper’s Ferry Outrage.” Keep the two papers for me (until called for) as I may want them. What do you think of Holcombe’s¹ and Memminger’s² speeches. If agreeable to yourself, I would like to have something of your views of the present condition and prospects of the South.

P. S. My P. O. is “Garysville.”

[Address: Graham N. Ca.]

¹ Probably James P. Holcombe, of Virginia.

² C. G. Memminger, of South Carolina, later secretary of the treasury of the Confederacy. He had recently gone to Virginia as a commissioner from South Carolina to urge a conference of the Southern States, and the speech referred to was before the House of Delegates.

From Kenneth Rayner.

WELDON No. CA.

March 6th, 1860.

I am now on my return to Raleigh, after a week's absence, at my plantation.

The more I have reflected on this project of the Whig Convention, in favor of a uniform system of *ad-valorem* taxation, the more I am disgusted at the influences, which caused it to be adopted as their party creed—and the more I feel concerned in regard to the mischievous consequences which it threatens. Again I beg and entreat of you to come down to the Democratic Convention which is to meet in Raleigh day after tomorrow. There never was a period of your life, in which you had it in your power to do more good for your country than on the present occasion. Come to my house and stay with me. I never wanted to see you and talk with you, so very much in my life. *I can tell you some things that will astonish you.* I want to talk a good deal with you. I have publicly given notice to our people in Hertford that I will resist the thing; and I mean to do it with all the character, influence, and ability I possess—of course I may expect nothing but denunciation in return.

There will be a desperate effort made to revolutionize the State, upon the *ad-valorem* principle of taxation. The attempt will be made to carry it in the West, by getting up a furor against the *negroes* in the East. In the East, it is to be urged on the ground of its being a *poor man's law*. Much as I dislike the word, you may rely on it we are in a *crisis*. Come down then by all means, and let the conservative men without reference to *past* party issues confer together for the purpose of preserving the State. This movement, as I honestly believe, contains the mischievous elements of Seward's "irrepressible conflict," brought home to us.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

near Graham, N. C.

*From George B. Johnston.*¹

CHAPEL HILL, March 8th, 1860.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Dr. and Respected Sir,

I make bold to intrude myself upon you, and ask your assistance in a matter of much interest to me; may I not hope that the intercourse always existing between our families and your intimate relation to some with whom I am connected, will in a measure excuse me? I am here, seeking a situation as tutor in the Faculty of our University; I have the *expressed* preference of the Professor in whose department the vacancy occurs, and feel assured that I could secure the appointment if any person of your influence and character would take enough interest in my success to recommend me to the Faculty, or rather to the President individually. If, my dear Sir, you are unwilling to do this, could I hope to get a letter from you to some such person as Gov. Graham or Gov. Manly, with a view to making a similar request? I left home a few days since and am glad to say all are quite well there; the health of my relative, Mr. James C. Johnston, who was quite sick during the Winter, is now very much improved. Gabe joins me in expressions of highest regard and affection for yourself and family. If, dear Sir, you will drop me a line on the subject above alluded to, you will greatly oblige Yr most obdt. ser't

GEORGE B. JOHNSTON.

From George McNeill, Jr.

PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE, [Fayetteville, N. C.] March 12, 1860.

The best thing I can do with the enclosed letter is to send it to you. Mr. Worth does not forbid my doing so—and he tells the whole story better than I can. Please return the letter to me, after you have read it.

I will not presume to add one word, to influence your judgment, only say that if Worth is convicted, I shall publish an appeal to the Governor to pardon him, or remit the whipping—on condition that he leave the State forever.

In view of the fact that the *Presbyterian* was the first paper in the country that called attention to Worth's movements in N. C., and followed it up till he was arrested, there will be no impropriety in this course. But if you advise the contrary it will not be done.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,
Graham P.O. N. C.

¹ George Burgwynn Johnston, of Edenton, a graduate of the University in 1859, and after this time a tutor in the institution. He was a captain in the Confederate service and died in 1862.

[ENCLOSURE.]

From Jonathan Worth to George McNeill.

ASHEBORO' March 10th, 1860.

*Rev. Geo. McNeill**My dear Sir.*

Some observations lately made by you to my son and an editorial in a late No. of your paper induce me to submit to you some views in relation to the Rev. Daniel Worth.

In addition to the horror of having a minister of the Gospel, aged about 68 years whipped, I am persuaded the abolitionists at home and abroad will turn it to account. To show some lenity would be evidence of conscious Security on the part of the community. He is a man of considerable talent and exemplary morals, who has dwelt upon the subject of emancipation to slaves until he has become a monomaniac, and will march up to the ignominious punishment with all the feelings of a martyr, and his punishment would be the subject of the most inflammatory commentary in all the Northern journals opposed to slavery. The general interpretation of the 16th Sec. of the Statute, entitled crimes and punishments, excludes any inquiry into the *intent* with which any one circulates a publication, "the evident tendency of which is to cause slaves to become discontented with their bondage" etc. *Somebody* must read such things in order to ascertain their tendency. The circulation of a book containing incendiary matter, would seem to subject any one to Indictment, though he might be ignorant of the contents of the book, or deceived as to the contents. Every one must decide, at his peril, what amounts to such *evident tendency*. Judge Shepherd held at Montgomery last week, that an article in the religious creed of a Society declaring that Slavery is inconsistent with the Christian religion, if printed and circulated among its members, would make the person circulating it indictable under this Statute, because all religious societies admit slaves as members and such an article would have an "evident tendency to make them dissatisfied with their social condition." This reasoning seems to be clear. It follows that all Quakers are indictable under this Statute and liable to the ignominious punishment it prescribes. Men who really know the Quakers would not willingly see the Statute enforced on them. Its execution, according to this interpretation would produce general horror. I think this act ought to be carried into effect against those only who *intend* to produce dissatisfaction among slaves. Daniel Worth is as fit a case for the execution of the law as could well be presented, if he were not an old man and a minister of the Gospel of exemplary character, save in the particular of Abolitionism. In this particular he is an enthusiastic monomaniac. Now I think he ought not to be whipped, if he will leave the country. It is well known that his relatives without exception have condemned him—

that they would have gladly had him leave the State if they could have induced him to so. It is in reference to the effect on the public mind that I deprecate his punishment under this Statute, which though it be right is highly penal. His arrest has called the attention of the whole country to it—and men will be exceedingly cautious for many a day to come, how they violate it.

To increase the trouble partizans have endeavored to bring the matter into the vortex of party politics. Most men, in positions to exert influence, are afraid of bringing themselves into public odium, if they suggest lenity as the wisest course to promote the public good—and I fear the law is likely to be enforced with the utmost rigor, while it seems to me that the general feeling is that it would be most wise, under all the circumstances of this case, to avoid whipping the prisoner, on condition that he leave the State. Let him be convicted, but in consideration of his age and being a minister of the gospel, let judgment be suspended on his entering into a recognizance for his good behavior.

Now my object in addressing you on this subject is this. I know but one man in the State who can advise prudence and lenity in this matter, and whose advice would be *adopted* without censure or suspicion as to his motives—and that man is Judge Ruffin—and my object in addressing you is to get you to call his attention to it. I know nothing as to his views but cannot but think that a man of his sound and cool judgment, would deprecate carrying out the Statute in its extreme rigor in this case. If he would address a letter to R. P. Dick—or to me or W. J. Long or in any other way most agreeable to himself, recommending that the prisoner should not be whipped, with an understanding that the judge and the bar might see it, this matter might be brought to a judicious conclusion, but standing in the relation I do to the prisoner and not knowing the judge's feelings, I will not address him. This is my first move in this matter. I am not counsel for the prisoner and have not had a word of communication with him direct or indirect and do not expect to have, unless this plan succeed. In this event I am persuaded I could operate on him through his son-in-law, Dr. Woolen, immediately to leave the State.

It could in no way do any good for it to be known that I have written this communication to you—and I desire that it be regarded as confidential, with this exception that I authorize you to make known its contents to Judge Ruffin, if you deem it expedient. Beyond him I prefer that nobody know that I have taken any steps in the matter, not that I feel that its being known would injure me but it would by some be misrepresented and perverted. I presume it will be unnecessary to make known its contents to Judge Ruffin, but in this you may act as you think proper.

Our Court begins the 26th inst. and it will be necessary to act at once if you do anything.

Your friend

JONATHAN WORTH.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, NO. CA.

March 20th, 1860.

I have a favor to ask of you. As I wrote you before, I am most decidedly opposed to this notion of *ad valorem* taxation, as proposed to the late opposition convention in this place—and I intend to oppose it with all the power and influence I may possess.

What I have to ask of you is this—to sit down when you have a leisure hour, and write down the objections to this measure, in the way it strikes you most forcibly,—of course I do not wish to tax you so far as to write all the minute details of the subject; but what I desire is that you will present the salient points of the argument.

Having been a member of the Convention of 1835—and therefore, in a measure one of the parties to the compact or compromise entered into on this subject; I feel that I am particularly called on to resist this movement.

I propose leaving here on Saturday next, to be at Hertford Superior Court, on next Monday; and *between ourselves*, I don't know if I shan't address the people then and there, on the subject.

When will you be down here again? I shall be much pleased to have you come and stay with me when you visit Raleigh. I am anxious to see and talk with you. I will send a carriage to meet you at the Depot at any time I may know you will be down.

I expect to return from Hertford in about a week or ten days.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

From S. Strudwick.

DEMOPOLIS ALA. March 20th, 1860.

Hon. Thos: Ruffin;

Dear Sir:

I should do injustice to myself were I to repress the Sentiments of unfeigned pleasure derived from the kind reception I met, during my late visit to North Carolina, from the friends whom I have known and valued in early life. There is a mysterious and undefined veneration for, and attachment to the persons, and places, associated with our early recollections, which is rarely, perhaps never kindled in the subsequent intercourse of life. When we pull up stakes and turn our backs upon the old homestead, we break up attachments which can never be renewed; no other spot is consecrated by the memories of childhood. We may acquire broader lands, and richer fields, but the *money value* is the

only one they possess—at least this is my experience, hence the pleasure I felt at being among the persons and places familiar to my boyhood, and receiving as I did, from my old friends, such gratifying marks of kindness and goodwill.

In addition to this, there is a wager pending between us which has to be settled. The case I think stands thus—"You bet that I would make 300 bales of cotton, averaging 500 lbs to the bale," and I bet that I would not—if you lost, that is, if I made *less* than 300 bales, you and Mrs. Ruffin, (adding two or three young ladies) were to spend two months with us at Arcola—if you won, that is, if I made more than 300, my wife and I were to spend two months with you at Haw River. As the crop is now wound up, picked, packed, and sold, and the money scattered to the four winds, I have all the data necessary for settling this wager—viz, I made 313 bales, putting their weight at 500; thus losing the bet—while I gain thirteen bales of cotton, and two months feeding of wife and self! How long would it take to make you poor by such *winnings*, or me rich by such *losses*? As this is a debt of honor, and not recoverable by any proceeding at law, I feel under peculiar obligations to use due diligence in its punctual discharge. May I ask your indulgence, so to modify the terms of payment as to enable us to pay by *instalments*, if we should find it impossible, or inconvenient, to pay the *whole at once*—or in other words, allow us to *pay the feeding in broken doses*?

Our winter has been one of unusual severity, attended by frequent and violent rains—which have retarded the preparation of our heavy lime lands, and consequently set us back in planting. We are now, however, getting under way, with a fair prospect of putting the crop in quite early enough, and in good order.

My clover is very fine, about four inches high, and furnishing abundant pasturage for hogs, sheep, colts, and cattle.

Present me very kindly to your family and accept assurances of my respect and esteem,

Truly yours

S. STRUDWICK.

From Kenneth Rayner.

HERTFORD Co. No. CA.

March 28th, 1860.

If you are not called to Raleigh by business you cant postpone—please put off your trip to Raleigh, till Thursday or Friday next.

I have an idea of going over to Gatesville on Tuesday next, to hear Gov. Ellis and Mr. Pool at their first meeting. If I do, I shall be able

to inform you of the impression made, and of the tone of popular feeling, on the subject of *ad valorem* taxation.

I am very anxious to see you, and talk with you.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin,
Graham, N. C.

*From William Cameron.*¹

HILLSBORO' March 30th/60

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

My dear Sir.

The subject matter of my letter, will prove my best excuse, for intruding upon yr attention, as I feel assured, of the sincere Interest you are kind enough to feel, in the fortunes, and wishes of our young kinsman, Lieut. William Kirkland.

I have just received a letter from Will, requesting me, to ask his friends, to aid him, in his wish, and desire of being permanently attached to his present Station: by writing to Messrs. Bragg and Branch and urging them to use their Influence at the Navy Department, to have him ordered to the Meta Comet, he thinks if these gentlemen can be induced, to insist on it that there will be no doubt, or difficulty about the accomplishment of his desire. The Meta Comet has at present but one Lieut and needs two. The vessel is a Steamer, stationed in the river La Plat and in seeking to get on board of her, Will is not shunning or avoiding service, or duty, but simply getting a fixed birth, where he desires to be stationed.

He is a fine, worthy young man, reflecting credit alike on his State, and his family; and as there is not a shadow of Impropriety in his request, I sincerely hope, it may be granted, and would esteem it a *personal* favour, if Judge Ruffin would use whatever of influence he can bring to bear, on the powers that be, to advance the wishes of a gallant, and meritorious young Carolinian. Owing to a scarcity of Officers on the Station, the Commodore is unwilling to assume the responsibility of ordering one, to the Meta Comet, but Will thinks that if Messrs. Bragg and Branch could be induced to see the Secretary, and *insist* on his appointment there would be no doubt of success, he is at present on board the U. S. Frigate Congress, Montevideo.

I hope you may see no impropriety in addressing our Senator and Representative on the subject, and with sincere regards to the members of yr. household

beg to subscribe myself Sincerely and Respectfully

Yr. friend

WM. CAMERON.

¹ A well-known physician of Hillsboro.

From Mathias E. Manly.

NEWBURN April 10th 1860.

Hon. and Dear Sir

You were kind enough to make important suggestions to me in the case of *Melvin vs Easley*¹ (The sunday case)

I desire a word or two with you upon a point where, if I understood you rightly, you found one of your difficulties.

The act "*per se*" as to *Melvin* was not unlawful. He can only be held legally culpable by reason of his complicity with *Easley* in *his* violation of the law.

Now what I wish to ask of your learning is whether *one* can be "particeps in delicto"; when if he had committed the act himself, he would not be guilty.

Is it not of the essence of a principal in the second degree that he might have been a principal in the *first*? (*Mutatis mutandis*)

Can any case be found in which a person has been held an aider and abettor of an act which he himself was not forbidden by law to commit?

Supposing him "perhaps" is he "in pari delicto"?

"Verbum sapientibus est satis."

I do not wish you to trouble yourself with an answer to this unless your health makes it entirely convenient.

I earnestly hope however, that the trouble is all right again and that you are enjoying that comfort and peace that is so desirable in old age when it becomes us to collect our scattered thoughts and prepare for another life.

I desire to be kindly remembered to the members of your household and am very truly and respectfully, yours

M. E. MANLY.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From Daniel M. Barringer.

RALEIGH

April 18, 1860.

My dear Sir:

You are aware that a proposition has recently been made by a number of our fellow Citizens to "Call a Convention of the people of the State, on the Federal basis, as early as practicable for the purpose of so modifying the Constitution that *every Species of property may be*

taxed according to its value, with power to discriminate only in favor of the native products of our State and the industrial pursuits of her Citizens."

Changes of the fundamental law are always important and require to be made with the greatest caution and deliberation. This is especially necessary in times of much political excitement and agitation, so well calculated to mislead the minds of men from a just and calm decision even on subjects of the deepest concern to themselves and their posterity.

You are familiar with our whole code system of laws—both constitutional and legislative.

By habits of long judicial life and of dispassionate research, you are accustomed to the unbiassed investigation of the gravest and most exciting questions. Your age and experience and knowledge of affairs in our good Old State: Your admitted ability and above all your integrity and disinterestedness enable you in an eminent degree to form an impartial and correct opinion on this important proposition, in all its tendencies and practical results; And would justly entitle that opinion to the greatest public confidence and respect.

If consistent with your sense of duty and propriety, and you can find the leisure to do so, I would be greatly obliged to have a written expression of your views not only on this proposed abrogation of an important section in our State Constitution—but also on the proposition to change the entire system of our State taxation and revenue, by taxing *every species of property at the same uniform rate*.

I remain, my dear sir,

Very truly

Your friend and obt Servt.

D. M. BARRINGER.

Hon Thomas Ruffin.

*From Daniel M. Barringer.*¹

PRIVATE

RALEIGH

April 18, 1860.

My dear Judge,

Excuse the liberty I have taken in writing the accompanying letter. Many of your friends here concur with me that it is desirable to have your views on the new question of agitation which has been thrown into the Canvass. What is to be the end of it, God only knows. One thing is certain, that it will require all the prudence and wisdom we can command to give it a proper and safe direction in the midst of the

¹ In the same envelope as the preceding letter.

disturbing agitation which is gradually separating the great sections of our country in sentiment and in fact.

I hope you can find time and feel disposed to give us your views on this question. Of course, we would like to have them published whenever you consent.

With kindest remembrances to Mrs. R. and the family,

I am, as ever,

truly Yr. friend etc.,

D. M. BARRINGER.

Judge Ruffin.

From T. M. Scott.

GREENSBORO

May 2d. 1860.

Judge Ruffin

Dear Sir:

Pardon me for troubling you with this note; and for asking your construction of the 75th section of the 34 chapter of the Revised Code. I have some men indicted in the County Court for playing cards, but without betting, in a tavern or public house. I remember some time ago in Alamance in a case where several persons were charged with playing at cards in a house where spiritous liquors were sold without betting, you charged the jury that under the new Revised Code owing to a change in the phraseology of the section it is now made indictable to play at a game of cards in such places even if there was no betting.

This is a case of considerable aggravation, as several men assembled on the sabbath day and continued to play from time to time for their own amusement until I caused a warrant to be issued and the parties bound to court. It has stopped their amusement for the present but unless they can be convicted and punished for such conduct they will no doubt be emboldened in their course.

I will be greatly obliged to you if you will at your convenience look into this question and give me your construction of this law. I regret to trouble you with such a request, and would not do it but for the reason that I think it always affords you a pleasure to aid the inquiring, and give them the benefit of your great experience and skill in throwing light upon the dark places of the law.

I have the honor to be

Your friend and servant.

T. M. SCOTT.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO May 8th 1860.

. . . I will get off by the early train in the morning—via Petersburg and Lynchburg: it is said to be “the fast line” and I would rather be in the mountains than in the Swamps. Let me say one word at parting—dont disregard the wishes of your friend! I then beg that you go at *once* to Philadelphia. See your old friend Dr. Jackson and *act* on his advice. He will do his best for you and will call to his aid if he needs it others—he will deal frankly with you—and I believe set up your health again. If my health was as delicate as yours—you would *make me go* and go with me—and I would gladly do this office—but then you have brothers and sons who would not yield me the duty. On my return, I will go with you and be with you at *any place* all summer that you may be advised to visit—and my wife will go with you. With *every member* of your household your health is above *all other* considerations—let it be the first object with you to regain it. I beg you. At all times you have my most affectionate wishes. All well. . . .

From A. G. Waters.¹

SHELBY N. C.

May the 20th 1860

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

Most honored Sir: I trust you will pardon the liberty I take in addressing you on so slight acquaintance, having never seen or been introduced to you but once, at Raleigh in the supreme Court Room when I was examined as an applicant for superior court licens. The object of these are to ask your opinion on a point of Constitutional law. “Does holding the office of county solicitor render such officer, ineligible to a seat in Legislature of this State?” I am very anxious to have your opinion on this point if you will so kind. I hold the office of county solicitor and my constituents are urging me to become a candidate, which I shall do, if you think it will not render me ineligible. I do not wish to Resign the solicitorship, not being able to loose the profits, having just commenced in business and compelled to rely entirely on my own resources. My Dear Sir, if you choose to give me an opinion please direct to Shelby, N. C., and for such favor I shall be under lasting obligations, such perhaps as it will never be my good fortune to repay. I had the pleasure of casting in my humble mite in

¹ Abraham G. Waters, a lawyer of Cleveland County, who served in the House of Commons from 1858 to 1862.

calling you from the retirement you had choosen, to the arduous duties your declining years would not permit you long to perform, so can only hope to recompense any kindness you may deign to bestow on me by a very grateful remembrance of your highly honorable and useful life, and to endeavor to imitate so far as possible

Trusting you will pardon the freedom with which I have written

I remain Dear Sir: your very

Obedt servant

A. G. WATERS

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

*From R. C. Cotten.*¹

CHATHAM 1860.

After my best respects to your self and family permit me in the most respectful manner to request a favor of you. I understand that you are opposed to the issue of small notes your opinion upon all subjects has great weight with me if you are opposed to the issue be so good if you please to give me your reasons for your opposition between us upon that subject is a coincidence of opinions but Sir as I know your great superiority upon all questions which makes me so desirous to hear from you your compliance would confer a lasting favor upon one of your best friends.

N B give my best respects to your son Thomas and tell him I expect to be in the next Legislature and if he wants anything he knows where to find Cotten.

From T. M. Scott.

GREENSBORO

June 2nd 1860.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir;

Engagements incident upon Court last week, and sickness during the present, have prevented me, until this moment, acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter of the 19th ultimo. Permit me now to acknowledge my obligations and to express my thanks for your able and lucid exposition of the statute under consideration.

The counsel for the defendants moved to quash the bill of indictment as not containing a criminal charge—the indictment did not charge that the parties bet at the game played.

¹ Richard Carney Cotten, of Chatham, a member of the House of Commons, 1816-1819, 1822, 1824, 1833-1838, 1850-1858.

The counsel agreed that the change in the present statute was made to meet the case of the State vs. Smitherman 1 Iredell 14, and not with a view of making it a misdemeanor simply to play at a game of cards in such places as therein mentioned.

I pursued the line of argument laid down by you, and insisted that the intention of the Legislature was to eradicate the evil entirely by preventing all playing in such places.

The court refused to quash the Indictment and the defendants appealed to the Superior Court.

I am very glad the case has gone up, and I will carry it to the Supreme Court in case the Superior Court Judge shall decide against me.

I have looked to the old statutes upon this subject referred to by you in your letter. They seem to make it perfectly clear, and show that the whole course of Legislation has been with a view to put down this crying evil in the land.

Please accept my warmest thanks for your kindness and rest assured that no improper use shall be made of your communication.

I am very Respectfully,

Your obt. Servant,

T. M. SCOTT.

From Nathaniel Boyden.

PILOT MOUNTAIN June 25th—60.

Our "Revised code" in the 6th section of the 71 Chapter, treating of Mills and Millers, says that all Millers shall chop any kind of grain at their Public Mills, for one fourteenth part, and that every miller and keeper of a mill making default therein shall for each offence, forfeit and pay five dollars to the party injured. Please turn to the chapter, and tell me what that 6th section means?

Suppose I was, as a miller, sued in fifty different cases under that act, and it was proven beyond a doubt that I had, out of fifty different turns, taken deeper toll than that section allows, would the Jury give a verdict for two hundred and fifty dollars, and would the Judge or any other authority have a right to set the amount down? Suppose that my situation, how could I best protect myself? Is there any way by which I could escape the paying up the five dollars for each offence?

I trust my dear Sir that you will pardon me for thus troubling you? I know of no such case as I have supposed, but feel some desire to know your opinion as to the force meaning and power of the aforesaid section.

Please write me at your earliest leasure.

Have the kindness to remember me to all your family.

I saw Mr. Broadnax at a R. R. meeting near here a few days since.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 28th June, 1860.

It is so long since I heard from you that if I did not know better, I should conclude that you did not care for me. I am not permitted to hear from yourself even whether you are alive. How is this? Have I provoked you? or what else is the matter? Be that as it may—I am determined to write you and to administer to the Interest I know you feel in all that concerns me. To begin then,—I have just finished my harvest—Crop only so so, much injured by the blade-rust which attacked it before the grain was sufficiently formed, and somewhat by the joint-worm, they were not numerous, it being their first appearance about here. My corn quite promising, better than I ever had, and if no disaster happens think I may make 1000 Bbls. from about 150 Acres. It is *no brag*—I really believe I shall with fair seasons. Tobe. is fair—a good stand and of fine color—and in good growth. That which I planted upon your recommendation, on a preparation with a liberal use of wheat straw, followed by 200 Lbs of P. Guano to the acre in the drill is too forward. I have saved from the lot in front of my House, to which I gave a Bus. of Plaister to the acre in the Spring not less than 15 Tons of Clover. Could save much more, but cannot spare the labor. I begin today only to prize Tobe.

I do not think I shall visit the Springs this Summer. I feel a good deal like an old garment, not worth patching—but thank God! my health is good, spirits good, and I have a place in my bosom for the kindest feelings towards my fellow men and the most hearty wishes for their welfare. You may conclude then that I pass my time in quiet and contentment, notwithstanding the schemes of Demagogues and venal Politicians. Old fashioned public virtue and old fashioned Patriotism, seem to have taken their departure from our land, and the People are made the foot-balls of mere Gamblers. In view of these things you and I should not, as some do, complain of old age, but rather rejoice that we have lived in the political harvest-time. It is however a part of our nature to sympathise with those who are yet young enough to experience the troubles which the present clouds in the political sky too awfully portend—this grievance we cannot escape.

I expected nothing from the Natl. Convention—all its results have verified my predictions to many friends. I mention this, not to boast of it as compliment to my sagacity, everything now lies upon the surface, and the managers are mere *surface-men*. I knew the character of the times, and the dirty influences which in this day prompt to action. The democratic proclivities of the age pervade our whole country—nothing can arrest our downward tendency to absolute Government—the idea of a Republic is cherished by but few. What a season for Demagogues and Charlatans! But I will scribble no more, lest I pro-

voke you to silence by the dread of repetition. "Senectus est natura loquacior."

Why don't you sometimes call me to our Board? I am always ready—on the 4th Prox. I promised to attend the wedding of our friend Cunningham and Miss S. Somerville.

Now may all the good things of this life be yours—and in such abundance that all with whom you would share them may have more than they desire. . . .

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Graham.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 7th July 1860.

Your very kind letter of the 4th Inst., came to hand last Evening. From the very best evidence in nature, I aver you are not as young as you once were. Your faculty of scolding attests your age. How *measurelessly* have you exercised it upon me for my little essay to provoke you to write me! You are quite an expert—Well I will take the scolding for the reward—I now know you are well, and as you said nothing about the family (thinking probably of nothing but your poor victim—I may indulge the belief that they are well also. I now know also how to get a letter from you in future, unless you sink one of the Characteristics of old age. When I get as old as you are, do you think, I will abuse a friend for his solicitude to hear from me?

I regret much I cannot meet you Monday morning. A friend and his family visit me to-day by appointment—and should they leave in time for me to take the cars tomorrow, I should not disregard my wife's admonition, especially as the emergency can be met by letter. She says "if it were not *Sunday* I ought to go." I say then I consent that you bid (101) one hundred and one for the Bonds—my only doubt is (and it is but the shade of a doubt) whether, as the Coupons run from last Jany. it is enough—but as you think it would *help* the Credit of the stocks—of which I have no doubt—we should not bid under that sum. If I were *certain* you would not return Home Monday Evg. I would go to Raleigh on that day, just to spend the evening with you. I visit Collins' Spring in my neighborhood, and derive much benefit from it. It is the same with Kittrel's spring. My Health is good, so is that of the family—all join in prayers for yr. Health and happiness.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Now in Raleigh.

From W. H. Faucett.

Names and ages of white family value of real estate—value of personal estate. Age sex and color of slaves beginning at the oldest. No. died within the year, in which month and disease days ill. Acres of improved and unimproved land value of farm, Value of farming implements and machinery, No. horses, mules, Milch cows, working oxen, other cattle, Sheep, swine, value of live stock, No. bushels wheat, rye, corn oats, lbs tobacco wool, bushels peas and beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, bushels barley, buckwheat, Value of orchard—Gal. wine lbs butter, cheese. Tons hay bushels clover seed, grass seed, lbs flax, bush. flax seed. Gals. molasses lbs. beeswax, Honey, value of home-made manufactures, value of animals slaughtered, No. of slave houses.
Judge Ruffin

Above please find a list of the most important questions I have to ask. I can find no paper

Your obedient servant

July 18th 1860.

W. H. FAUCETT

[CIRCULAR.]

RESOLUTION

DIOCESE OF TENNESSEE, July 21, 1860.

The following resolution was passed by the Board of Trustees of "The University of the South," at the meeting in New Orleans, on the 11th day of February to wit:

Resolved, That the President give notice of the time and place of the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, and state therein that one of the principal matters to come before the Board will be the adoption of a Constitution and that for such purpose the Charter requires a majority of all the Trustees to form a quorum; and that he particularly request the attendance of each member.—Minutes, P. 10.

By another resolution of the Board—see Minutes, pages 11 and 12—it was resolved, that the "draft of the Constitution and Statutes of the University of the South, adopted at the meeting held in New Orleans, from February 8th to 13th, inclusive, be laid over for final consideration, to the next meeting of the Board."

In accordance with the provision of the foregoing resolutions, I hereby give you notice that I have appointed Tuesday, October 9th, 1860, as the time, and University place, Franklin County, as the place for the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, and particularly request your attendance, for the reasons set forth in the foregoing resolutions.

JA. H. OTEY,
Pres. Bd. Trusts.

From William W. Vass.¹

RALEIGH, Aug. 11, 1860.

Dear Sir,

I have this evening yours of the 9th inst.

You can get 20 shares Ral and Gaston stock at \$70. Mr. Harrison let B. F. Moore take his 50 shares, after we had arranged that you should take Mr. Perry's 20 shares, in case you wanted it.

Mr. Perry will send his certificate up to office in a few days, and I will arrange all for you, on my *return from Morgantown*, whither I start on business on *Monday Morning*. Mr. Moore gave \$70 for his purchase of 50 shares, and it can not be had at less rates.

In Haste, Yours etc.

W. W. VASS,

Treas.

To Hon. T. Ruffin.

From Richard S. Mason.

RALEIGH Aug 24, '60

Dear Sir

I have a favor to beg of you which I hope you will consider neither improper nor unpleasant to grant.

Mr. Badger, I find, makes objections to my right to call meetings of the vestry and preside at such meetings. What his objections are I am not aware. I heard him say, that before the passage of the late constitution and Canons he considered the presiding of the rector as permitted by courtesy, but that since it was to be made a right, he should resist the claim.

Will you be kind enough to inform me what is your opinion of this matter; whether I have or have not a right to call meetings of the vestry, and to preside at such meetings when called? whether I have a legal right, such a right as could if necessary be maintained at law, whether any meetings of the vestry can be lawfully called except according to the provisions of the fifth section of the 16th Canon.

I find that in the year 1821 a canon was passed requiring for union with the church in this diocese that a congregation should consent "to adopt and be governed by the constitution and Canons of this Church." And that in the year 1822 Christ Church, Raleigh was admitted into union. Of course on those conditions. Does not our acceptance of the former imply our acceptance of and submission to the present constitution and Canons.

¹ William W. Vass, of Wake, 1821-1896, was at this time president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad.

I ask these questions of you for my own guidance. If your opinion should be adverse to my claim I doubt very much whether I shall ever be enduced to be present at another vestry meeting. If your opinion should be favorable to the claim, as I can have no higher authority I may think myself bound in justice to myself my successor and the church to maintain prudentially that claim.

Your answer to this letter if you require it, shall be confined entirely to myself. If you permit me I should like to shew it to Mr. Mordecai, Gov. Manly, and Mr. Rayner either one or all three of them as you may direct. Hoping for your answer to this appeal.

I remain dear Sir

With Sincere respect
and esteem

Very truly yours

R. S. MASON.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT—25th Aug. 1860

I mail this at Ridgeway on my way to Richmond—to attend the sale of my Tobc. to morrow—shall return Thursday—am obliged to be at our Court next week. The week after I propose—if well—and it does not interfere with your business of calls from home—(of which I know you will speak frankly) to visit you—say that I meet you at our old friends' Cad: J. on Monday evening—3d. Prox: and go next Evening to your House—or if *more convenient* to you—meet you on Monday Evg. at your Depot in Alamance—in which case I shall pass right on by Jones'. I select Monday because I desire the week before me—that—if every thing suit and *you approve*—I may visit some of the Factories—and buy my negro clothing. I desire to make arrangements to spend my money in N. C. when I can rightly.

Now tho' I am particular in detailing my movements—I give you *full power to alter them to suit yourself—in all regards*. Could you not—during my trip—have a meeting of the S. Fund Board? I see the N. C. R Road declares a Div^d. to us—and I have been so long an absentee I want you to bring me up with our matters. Write me how you arrange for me—so that your letter may reach me last of this week.

* * * * *

[P. S.] Is it necessary to speak in time for clothing? If so, why can't you write for me to the managers in advance?

From James H. Otey.

UNIVERSITY PLACE
FRANKLIN Co
TENN
Sep 5, 1860

Dear Sir

The Executive Committee beg leave respectfully to call your attention to the accompanying card, and to tender you an invitation to be present on the occasion of the proposed ceremony.

The route for reaching the University is by the Nashville and Chattanooga Rail Road to Cowan, thence by the Sewanee R. R. to the University Depot. At the Depot conveyances will be in readiness to take you to lodgings prepared for your accommodation.

Respectfully

Your obt Sert

J. H. OTEY
Chairman

P. S. An early answer is requested.
To Judge Ruffin
Graham, N. C.

[CIRCULAR]

The required preliminary arrangements having been made, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, hereby gives notice that the Corner Stone of the principal building of the

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH,

will be laid with appropriate ceremonies, at University Place, Franklin County, Tenn., on the 10th day of October next.

JAS. H. OTEY.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO Monday Sep. 10th, [1860]

I write a line by your man Jesse to say that I saw Mr. Edwards in Raleigh and that he told me after hearing of the Calamity that had befallen Mrs. Ruffin, and that you had so many sick in your family of slaves that he had made up his mind to postpone his visit to you. And I suppose he had written to you from Raleigh. He was not in his usual good spirits as he had but recently had a distressing accident to happen

in his own family of slaves by the blowing down of a tobacco barn in which his hands had taken shelter from a storm and from which two of his slaves were taken out dead—one of the two his most valuable slave, a carpenter. He is as earnestly enlisted in the Presidential Canvass as he ever was in his life.

* * * * *

I have my hands full in the many jobs that I have on hand. Commence brick making here to day. I shall get off South at as early a day as I can with 20 or 25 hands for my place in Tunica Co. Miss. but must wait until frost has made its pacification. Your leather (400 lbs sole) ordered, and you should very soon have the bill—hope it will not exceed 18 or 20 cents per lb. Do you know of any fertilizer for grass better than Peruvian guano? Hope to be able to get up and pass a day with you during “Grape Season,” but Jesse tells me that they are not as good as usual.

Do you want some Florida State Bonds at 60! I send you a pamphlet which you will please read and give me your opinion, or rather impressions.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MT. 10th Sepr. 1860.

I did not receive your valued letter “to the care of Mr. Courts” untill about to take cars friday morning for Home. Would have answered it next day, but for much company which left me only this morning. Of course could not tell Mr. Courts our plans and wishes as you requested—but he told me Wednesday evening, at his office, whither I went to look for you, that he had not collected the Dividend from the N.C.R.R. I urged him to do so without delay—that dilatoriness would not escape censure,—had you not better press him on the same Point—for I *will certainly meet you on the 25th* as you appoint—let us have a full board and close up.

Now, my good friend! I need not say to you how sincerely I regretted my Disappointment in not being warranted under the afflictions in your family in visiting you. I had arranged to do so but your letter reached me the day before I left for Raleigh and I could not find in my Heart sufficient reason for interfering with your humane offices to your black family, but above all, when I go to your House my greatest pleasure will be in being much with my old friend Mrs. R. and reviewing by-gone days, of this I should be deprived. Tell her, if you please, she has not a friend, who more deplores her affliction, or who more sincerely prays for her speedy and entire recovery. I want to see

you much—very much—have much to talk and consult about. What a world—or rather what an age we live in! What retrogression is stamped upon it! but let this alone till I see you. I will be with you and Swain at Raleigh on the 25th, if you change the time let me know.

* * * * *

To Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Alamance.

To David L. Swain.¹

ALAMANCE, Sepr. 15th, 1860.

My Dear Sir./

I wrote to Mr. Edwards, proposing a meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund in the afternoon of the 25th Inst. and the 26th, and he accedes to it and joins me in requesting you to join us. The purposes of the meeting are: 1st. to close up our late transactions with the Treasury, which remain open; and also to bid for the loan of \$120.000, offered by the Treasurer for the 26th. To the latter end we shall have in hand \$90.000 for the late Dividend of the No. Ca. Rail Road, and our Octo. Coupons; and I hope Mr. Courts will be able to add now \$25.000 out of the surplus in the Treasury, so that we may take the whole offering. I shall go down in the mail train of the 25th, so as to reach Raleigh at the time of Edwards' arrival; and I hope to meet you at Durhams. We want a full meeting.

Yours truly,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Govr. Swain.

From Charles F. Fisher.

COMPANY SHOPS, Sep. 18—60.

I find a letter on my table, not having been sent, which was written to you early in August in reply to your kind favor of July. I hope you will have the goodness to excuse this apparent neglect, as my accumulation of letters last Summer was very large.

It was owing to the expressions of opinions from yourself and other friends that I did not endeavor to convene the Board again immediately after the Stockholders Convention, and decline to serve.

Having requested many of my friends before leaving Raleigh, not to vote for me as Director, since I did not wish even to serve on the

¹From the Swain Papers, North Carolina Historical Society.

Board—my vote shows badly—but I had so much desired to retire from this position of responsibility, and disagreeable labor that it was hard to fall back again under the yoke.

For the kind and unfailing interest you have taken in my administration always heretofore, I owe you much more than an expression of common acknowledgment.

I am glad to hear that your health is better than during last summer. If you could ride over some pleasant day during the Fall, and spend a few hours, we would be very much pleased to see you, and could show you some new things for North Carolina about the shops.

Hon Thos Ruffin.

From Charles F. Fisher.

COMPANY SHOPS, N. C. R.R.

September 29th, 1860.

The Free Pass of last year was like the enclosed—if you will observe—as “Commr. of the Sinking Fd.” I ought to have renewed it sooner, but have been absent so much, to the inevitable postponement of many things.

I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you at some early day.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 1st Octo. 1860.

A thousand thanks for your very kind letter of 28th ult:—especially for the glad tidings of Mrs. R's improved Health with the addendum that there is no new case of Diptheria. Every day satisfies me that one cannot live in this world without help—and the proof is this instant at hand, in my being obliged to make a convenience of you in the particular of Negro Clothing—about which we talked at Raleigh. Say to Mr. Holt, if you please, that I want him to send me to Ridgeway, at the *earliest day*, seven pieces (7) of Cotton shirting for negroes—and (3) three pieces of striped or checked Cotton Cloth for negro women—the sample you had pleases Mrs. E., it is dark and suits our hands. I would prefer some of it of different pattern. Tell him if *you dont pay him*, I will by check on Petersbg., or by sending the money.

I know there is no vindictiveness in you towards me and therefore do not feel any fear of serious infliction from you for the night at

Raleigh. But in truth I am the one to complain, for I have scarcely yet got over the debauch into which *you* led me. You remind me of the old adage—when one does a wrong he hunts most diligently for some one to charge with it—and is sure to cry out “foul play.”

* * * * *

From H. H. Prout.

WILLIAMSBORO' Oct. 3, 1860.

Dear Sir.

The Bishop wrote to me from Leaksville a few weeks since, inviting me in your name to take charge of the parish at Graham.

I was unprepared at that time to give a very definite answer to the invitation, but wrote to the Bishop that I would like to have his advice and would abide by his judgment. To that letter I have received no reply. I directed to the Bishop at Asheville, and think it perhaps did not reach him. I think it due to you therefore to explain my course in the matter.

I do not think it right to leave this parish before the end of the present year. My parochial engagement extends to the end of the year, and I have a school which will also end with the year.

If the Bishop, whose judgment I would like to have in the premises shall think it best, and you can wait till the end of the year, I am willing to assume the care of your parish.

Allow me to say frankly however, that from some expressions in the Bishop's letter, I fear your opinion in regard to me is comparatively exaggerated and too partial. I say this because it is due to truth, and to prevent, if possible, disappointment. I can only claim an honest wish to do my duty, and have never been able to do it, except “in weakness and much fear and trembling.” Allow me to say that I hope the people of your congregation will ever chiefly venerate the *office of the ministry*.—as being, in the Apostle's words “a treasure in earthen vessels.” Then they will be apt to derive benefit from even the feeblest ministrations. I shall hope to hear from the Bishop in answer to the letter I wrote to him on the subject.

Respectfully and truly yours

H. H. PROUT

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

*From H. H. Prout.*¹

In taking a step like this I feel it to be essential that I have the full concurrence of my own judgment. On this account I ask a little delay in coming to a conclusion.

1. I dislike to put pecuniary considerations first—but to speak with candor, I am so poor that my family have to depend wholly on my salary for their support.

2. I now receive about twelve hundred dollars *in value* annually; this I find to be necessary for the wants of my family. I include my school salary in this estimate.

3. My children are infants yet—several of them at least;—and the burden of removal is therefore very heavy, especially on their mother.

4. I have removed so much from place to place already that it has almost *broken the heart and health* of my wife.

5. Again, I have to account to a very kind people why I leave them. I have reason to believe that their call to me to remain is sincere. At all events I fear I shall be neglecting an indication of Providence if I hastily conclude to break up and go.

6. Were I a single man, without the cares and responsibilities which now surround me all this would be out of the way,—but I feel that the welfare of my children and wife must be regarded,—lest by not providing for them I should incur the Apostle's censure as one who "denies the faith and is worse than an infidel."

7. The principle of action that we are to go where we can do the most good is a good one, but very difficult of application.

8. Such are my circumstances that even the unavoidable expenses of removing my family are things of serious importance over and above the anxiety and great labor involved.

These considerations I hope will be thought pertinent—and plead my excuse for desiring to have my consent modified a little,—let it be conditional—and allow me time and opportunity to see my way more clearly. I must satisfy *my own judgment*. I acknowledge the obligation to the kind people of Graham, but I must not overlook deep obligation to others. I must not do anything of this nature without being clearly convinced that it is for the best *on the whole*

H. H. PROUT.

What I propose by these considerations is not to decline the invitation to Graham, but that I be allowed a little delay in making up my mind. I shall go there with pleasure if it seems best on the whole. Allow me until the fifth Sunday in December when I intend to be there and fulfil my appointment to preach there.

¹ This letter, without date or address was found in the Ruffin papers and evidently was written about the same time as the preceding letter.

*From Walter L. Steele.*¹

ROCKINGHAM, N. C.

October 4th, 1860.

I am sure you will excuse me for the trespass which I am about to commit, when you learn the subject of this letter.

I had hoped, until recently, to be in Raleigh during the week of the approaching State Fair, and assist in organizing the proposed Horticultural Society. A political demand at that time, which I feel that I ought not to resist, will prevent my attendance. You will, I feel certain, be present, if your health shall justify it, and I most earnestly wish it may, for many a year yet to come, and will evince your cordial co-operation, by becoming one of its founders. I trust it may be successful, and be the means of giving more vitality to the spirit of arboriculture among our people, than our state society has done heretofore. If our friends are careful in the selection of their officers, choosing them from among the devoted practical cultivators of fruit, there is no doubt that the proposed association will accomplish a valuable end.

I was present at the late meeting of the American Pomological Society in Philadelphia. I regretted that I was the only Representative from our State, and had so little to exhibit of her productions. My orchard does not contain an "infinite variety"—having been planted with more regard to the *quality* of the fruit, than to the *extent* of the kinds. Most of my trees, too, are young, and not in bearing. I took some specimens (we suffered from drought severely) of White Winter Pearmain, Clark's Pearmain, Winesap, Mangum, Winter Spice, Stansill (a native here) Hall, Vandevere, Green Cheese, and Golden Russet Apples. Benné Easter Pear and the Scuppernong Grape. P. J. Buckman, William Schley, and Richard Peter of Ga. Genl. Tench Tilghman of Maryland, H. R. Robey, Oliver Taylor and another from Virginia, were all the Southern men present.

The display of fruits was fine. A collection of more than two hundred varieties of the Pear was shown, besides a number of Apples, grapes, and plums and a few peaches. Through the kindness of friends I was enabled to taste a great number of Pears which I had not before enjoyed. Among the many which made me glad may be mentioned Seekel, Bartlett, Belle Lucrative, Steven's Genessee, Dozenné Bonssock (splendid) Dix Benné Rose, Paradise d'Automne, Flemish Beauty, White Dozenne, Henkell, Baffour, Benné Superfine, Benne d'Argon, Benné Diel. We have had here, in limited quality, the Sickel Bartlett, L.B. of Jersey, St. Michel Anhaug (first rate) Belle Lucrative, Benné, Golden of Bilboa, Benné Gifford.

¹ Walter Leak Steele, of Richmond County, a graduate of the University, member of the House of Commons, 1846-1852, 1854; state senator, 1852, 1858.

Will I worry you (but I can hardly do so, upon such a subject) by giving you an outline of our intended operations at this place, together with a brief account of our present horticultural status?

We have on our Nursey grounds an expermental orchard, laid out at 20 feet for apples, pears and peaches and 10 feet for Dwarf Pears, 343 Dwarf Pear trees, embracing about 110 varieties, 140 standards, about 25 varieties, 250 apple trees, 70 varieties, 450 peach trees, 82 varieties besides many specimen trees of the Cherry or Mahalib, the Apricot and plum. We have also, but two varieties of the strawberry and they the *best* of the whole catalogue,—Wilson's Albany and Triomphe de Gaud. We have in Vineyard 2000 Catawbas and shall add an equal number this coming season. 100 scuppernongs, besides a number of Isabella, Lincoln, and Black Hawberry and Golden Chapelas. Our stock of peach trees small but remarkably large, and all are sold. Our Pear and Cherry buds have grown fairly and next season, will produce very fine trees.

We hope to insert next summer about 30,000 apple and peach buds, and 8 or 10,000 Pear buds. Also to plant from 3 to 5,000 Grape Vines. We have ordered from France 10,000 pear seedlings, besides 3000 from New York—having failed twice to raise them ourselves—being determined to try to produce a large number of very fine trees of this capital fruit. At the Fair of 1861, we hope to have specimens of *our own* raising, which will do us no discredit, and in sufficient quantities to supply all persons in our state who appreciate the delicious flavor of the Pear.

It is our purpose to carry on the business honestly, without puffing or humbuggery, and to sell at *reasonable* and *uniform* prices. I shall take the liberty to send you one of our unpretending catalogues, so soon as it shall be issued from the Press, as a token of high personal esteem, and I beg you to believe for no more unworthy purpose.

And now, My Dear Sir, if you want any grafts of any varieties of fruit in my collection. it will afford me great pleasure to send them to you; wishing no other return, than the consciousness of having disseminated a valuable plant to a man capable, by nature and education, of *appreciating* the Kindness of Providence, in giving his creatures so many means of physical gratification.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,
Graham, N. C.

From F. J. Kron.¹

Dear Sir;

October the 11th 1860.

We send down a few things for exhibition at the fair, to the prosperity of which we take an interest because you have put your soul in it. One of the items consists in six bottles of wine from the *Lenoir*, alias *Warren*, alias *Herbemont*, alias *Lincoln*, but as I believe, in truth, a *Gamas*, grape from France. But be the origin of the grape as it may, it undoubtedly is the most eligible to cultivate on a large scale of all the varieties I have so far had opportunity well to study. The fruit, when full ripe, is not only a superior table grape but, with the help of sugar, makes a wine that improves with age and compares with the best *Madeira*. Its requiring the help of sugar is no objection to it, for all grapes grown among us, to make good wine, call for such addition. Our fruit is deficient in saccherine matter, even at its best—we cannot come up with foreign Countries on that point: our grapes when dried will not offer the crystals of sugar foreign raisins do. The must from the ripest *Scuppernong* only shows 7° of Carter's aerometer, whilst the must from which *Sherry* is made reaches to 14° a density which indicates two pounds and a half of sugar of grapes per gallon. The normal density of our best must, 7°, is considered as that of mere *beverage* even in the center of France. The *Lenoir* has all the other elements, only give it sugar, one or two pounds per gallon before fermentation and a wine can be made from it that will keep without the addition of alcohol, acquire a fine aroma in the course of 12 months, exhilarate the well and roborate the sick.

The wine sent to the fair is from this year's vintage; the fruit was full ripe; after mashing, the must stood over night on stems and skins and when drawn off, a pound of loaf sugar was added to the gallon of clear juice. As soon as fermentation was nearly over, or when only a few sparkles could be seen to break over the surface, the wine was filtered through *Prat* and *Dumas'* fine paper and bottled. Of course, it is yet destitute of the qualities age will give: but, new as it is, it is full of promise, a promise which we trust will be amply fulfilled in *Mrs. Ruffin's* keeping, for we beg of you to claim the wine after the exhibition, it being a present to *Mrs. Ruffin*, with grateful remembrance
from

Your most Respectful
Humble servant

F. J. KRON.

P. S. of the 104 new varieties of grapes obtained from France, last March was a year, 20 have shown fruit this year, all superior table grapes, ripening from July to September, and some of them, of fine quality for wine.

F. J. K.

¹ Frederick J. Kron, of Stanly County, a native of France, who had formerly been an instructor in the University of North Carolina, but who was at this time a fruit grower.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO, Friday Oct. 12th 60.

I received on Monday last the 24 bags of oats—all O.K. and am now putting them in the ground with my grass seed. You did me a great kindness in supplying this want and I am very grateful for it—a friend in need *is* the friend *indeed*.

Anne Cameron will hand you this as I shall part with her at the Graham station, and pass up to the Shops to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors, will have to run down to Raleigh on Saturday morning, back here Saturday night and to Fairintosh on Monday. If my time was not so fully occupied I would be not a little pleased to go down from the shops and pass Saturday and Sunday with you and the family.

* * * * *

Mr. Curtis will be at home by that time and will report the laying of the "Corner Stone," this is about as pleasant a time as we shall have this fall for Mrs. Ruffin and yourself to turn out. So pluck up the courage and come along. I am growing very anxious as to the Presidential election—it is near at hand—and to me hardly any more "light" as to the result than 2 months ago! With the 15 Southern States and the 2 Pacific States and a fusion in Penn, all may go well with our Ticket, but my belief now is that the "Black Republicans" will get the Government into their hands! Tell Sterl "every man" must be at his post on the day of Election. Nothing new hereabouts—babies continue to be the order of the times with our friends at "West Hill"—another Grandaughter born yesterday—Rob's. 4th!!!

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 16th Octo. 1860.

I recd. a few days ago a bill from Mr. Holt for the Cloth you ordered for me—Now I am not going to thank you. I am too afraid of your wrath—which, on a former occasion visited upon my Head *such a scolding*—but I must say I am glad there is one at Alamance to whom I can send my little requests *sans ceremonie*—and therefore ask that you will hand the inclosed \$34.56 to Mr. Holt for me—the sum is too small for a check. *The Bale of Cloth has not yet got to Ridgeway.*

When I saw you and said I would meet you at the Fair, I did not know it was our Court Week—which I must attend. It is the week for laying in my Negro Hats and Blankets and woollen Cloth—not being

able as I wished—to get it from our own factories, and it is time to begin to make the Clothes. Besides if there be an anti-No. Carolinian in Warren I want to see him. News from Pa. appalling—What is to save us from impending Perils? My mind is at a standstill—Madness rules the Hour, and I cannot keep *my* senses by calm cogitation.

* * * * *

[P. S.] I will certainly meet, when you order, to make our report.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Nov. 8th—1860.

I last fall (or rather winter) wrote to Baltimore for one Bushel of the celebrated “Boughton” Wheat—about whose merits I had read much. It was then considered very precious. I paid \$4 for one Bushel. It was very late before I got it in the ground—about 20th Decr. Of course it was not very good. I send to the depot today one Bushel of it, in a bag, marked to you “near Graham, Alamance Co. N.C.” I suppose it will be left at the place where your freight is usually left. I notice in several communications, in the “American Farmer,” the very highest commendations of the “Boughton” wheat. It is spoken of as productive in yield, and free from rust, and other disease. I returned from Hertford yesterday, after [I] had to drive off my overseer and if I had served him right, I should have given him a sound thrashing. I suppose he must have stolen from me, some \$200 worth of various articles in the last two months.

Well, Lincoln is elected—and I feel alarmed at the consequences! You may rely on it So. Ca. will secede and I fear 2 or 3 other states will follow. My Dear Judge, what is to be done? Write to Gov. Ellis as to what ought to be the tone of his message to the Gen. Assembly. Ellis is a well meaning man and I think a patriotic man;—but in a great emergency like this, has he the firmness and self-reliance necessary for the occasion? I came through Virginia yesterday. There is still some uncertainty as to how Virginia has voted. Probably for Bell by a small majority. I shall be pleased to receive the “honey-blade” millet seed from you.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance Co. N. C.

*From George P. Bryan.*¹

CHAPEL HILL Nov. 20th, 1860.

I have just learned that you were desirous of procuring the back numbers of the Univ. Mag. During my connection with the Mag. I ordered from Mr. Cooke, the former printer, several vols. for some of my friends. I paid the price which they bore at the time of publication—\$2.00 per vol. This, with the cost of binding amounted to \$2.75. All of those ordered were not taken. I have now on my hands the 3rd. 5th. 6th and 7th vols—6th and 7th bound in one. The cost of all four was \$8.25, there being only one number issued for the 6th vol. If you wish them I could have them delivered in Hillsboro.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 23d, Novr. 1860.

The time approaches for the meeting of our Commission. It would suit me best if agreeable to you and Brother Swain, to attend quite early in next Month—but fix your own time and I will—health permitting—certainly be with you, being duly notified. I fear much the fate of our Commission and our funds this winter. In times like these, timid men are apt to do mischief. Public men are now a days too distrustful of the People. Let us speak out and tell plain truths, that we may avoid all responsibility in the matter.

My mind is employed almost day and night upon the wretched condition of our Country. It mortifies me to think that the Govt. (federal) is a failure—the state Govts. are not yet. Both however rest on the same basis—the capacity of the constituent body for self-government. The latter upon the will of the People—the former upon the Will of the States. This is the great fundamental rule upon which rest the principles and theory of all our political structures and inseparable from them. Take it away and our experiment proves an utter failure. Our Govt. would be transformed into one of force. Were our ancestors then mistaken? If they could now revisit us and look upon our troubles, I fear they would say they were—that they had reposed too much on Man's virtues. But I am not going to provoke you by indulging more in these speculations, so I will say no more—but God Bless you and yours—and add the assurance that all my family unite in this supplication.

¹ George Pettigrew Bryan, of Raleigh, 1841-1864, a graduate of the University who was at this time a tutor in the institution. He entered the Confederate Army as a captain and was killed at Charles City Road, Va.

To David L. Swain.¹

ALAMANCE, Novr. 26th, 1860.

My Dear Sir./

I have received a letter from Mr. Edwards proposing a meeting of our Commission on some day early in next month. In so doing he only anticipated my purpose, and I was about writing to you to ask, what day would be most convenient to you, as I supposed, that, as usual, you would be going to Raleigh about that time to a meeting of the Trustees, and on the general business, of the University. Be pleased to let me know by return of the Post, that I may make a communication to Mr. Edwards in due time.

I beg you to allow me to call your attention to another matter of some importance, in my opinion. I allude to the contribution of the geological and mineralogical surveys to the State I think the investigations, reports and discussions of Dr. Emmons² have been of immense advantage directly to the State, and not less indirectly by attracting the attention and directing the thoughts of many others to the science and developments to which he devotes himself. You may have observed, that I deemed his praises of such publick consequence as to be induced at the last meeting of the State Agricultural Society to move for and obtain a vote of that Body asking the Assembly to continue his employment. But I fear, that, standing by itself, that recommendation will not have much weight with our law-makers; and, therefore, if your opinion and that of the Faculty should accord with mine, I would ask the expression of it, hoping for an effect from the sober judgment of such a body of Scientific men much more powerful than any that could result from the wishes and opinions of private persons, tho' associated to promote the interests of agriculture. I think the gentleman himself is more than usual entitled to the good offices of men of character and education, for the reason, if no other, that he never speaks a word for himself, and therefore they are under the greater obligation to do it for him. Indeed, I hardly know him, and I believe very few do, personally, as he seems to be essentially only a man of knowledge and Science. I leave it to you to determine, whether this cause could be served best by your personal influence among the members or by a formal vote of the Body, of which you are the head.

I have to add, as a duty to a neighbour and to the Trustees and College, that I have lately received the enclosed letter from *Mr. Doherty*, and conceive that the destination to which it is best entitled is to submit it to yourself. I am not competent to form any estimate of the capacity of Mr. D. for the station he seeks, tho' I feel obliged to state, that I

¹From the Swain Papers, collections of the North Carolina Historical Society.

²Ebenezer Emmons, the state geologist.

have heard Dr. Wilson say, that he was a scholar, and I believe his deportment has been such, since he has been here, as to give no offence to any one, and procure for him the general esteem and respect of those among he lives.

With great respect and esteem, I am, Dear Sir.

Very truly your friend and Svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

President Swain
Chapel Hill
No. Car.

From W. R. Holt.

LINWOOD N. C. Novr. 30th, 1860.

Judge Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir,

The deep interest you have expressed and felt for the success of the N. C. State Agri: Society and its annual Fairs, prompts me to consult you on some of its important interests.

Mr. Wilson W. Whitaker our most able and efficient Sec: of the Executive Committee, has declined, acting as heretofore in that capacity. The state of his health he assures us and it is apparently so forbids his acting. This we regret exceedingly, he seemed to have the highest qualifications for that office, with an experience running back to the first organization of the Society. No names have been suggested that I could give a confident approval. The qualifications required are of such a high order, that it will be most difficult to find a proper successor. We declined receiving his resignation untill his continued ill health should determine the point or a successor could be found.

Let us invoke your aid in this matter in the selection of another. Upon representations made to me lately by the Treasurer G. F. Hutchins, we shall have a deficit of about 7 or 800 Dollars in paying off Premiums and the Bills for Building and repairs upon the Fair grounds. Upon this subject a meeting has been called (of the Ex: Committee) on Tuesday the 11th Prox: to take this into consideration and if you should be about Raleigh, we would like to consult you upon these subjects.

I will remark that if the Friday of our Fair had been a propitious day, our Receipts would have equalled our outpayments—on the day before we received \$1082. at the Gate and a very large crowd had remained over for the next day.

Based upon the voluntary system our Premium Lists and other expenditures must be carefully made but inducements must also [be] held out—in view of this our Premiums had been some what reduced.

Wishing you a full return of health and many good wishes for Mrs. Ruffin and family

I remain yours

W. R. HOLT.

From Matthias E. Manly.

NEWBERN Decr. 2nd 1860.

Honoured and Dear Sir

Your kind letter is very much prized by me. Approbation of my election¹ from such a source is not only a high gratification but of lasting value.

If I can only justify your favorable regard by such work in the high office I fill, as to maintain the reputation of the court, which you contributed so essentially to build up, I shall be content.

I have not the vanity to suppose that I can equal my predecessors, but I hope to follow, "*haud passibus equis*" in the tracks they have left and thus to assist in keeping the law stable and intelligible and the court from falling into disrepute.

I wish you dear Judge all the serenity and happiness which you can desire and which your previous services to the country so eminently deserve. Surrounded indeed as you are by family and friends the close of your life will be in every way fitting and appropriate to its useful and illustrious meridian.

Our political surroundings make me sad and apprehensive. I desire very much to see you and talk a little on public affairs. I think we are in imminent peril of a national dissolution—Indeed I can hardly say a hope is left that it will be avoided.

The election of Lincoln under the circumstances seems to present an occasion of having a better understanding with our northern neighbors.

If they insist upon regarding slaves at the south as a *moral taint* which it is *their* duty to eradicate, we must quit them.

If they abandon such purpose I see no reason why the union may not continue, and allow the highest destiny that has been predicted for it. What I fear is they will not abandon it.

As an earnest of abandonment I think we have a right to ask an immediate repeal of their personal liberty bills and a recognition in congress of equal rights in the territories.

¹ Judge Manly had just been elected by the legislature to succeed Judge Ruffin on the Supreme bench.

The present condition of things must end in a necessity on the part of the slave-owners in a few years of *running away from their slaves*, and I think the present is an occasion when we must take our stand.

It will not be creditable to the intelligence or temper of the age when posterity reads in the history of the country that its nationality was destroyed thro' strife in defending the "status" of a few africans.

It will be a disgrace to loose our own liberties in defending theirs.

But whatever sins history may ascribe to us I do not think that this strife will be put to our account.

I shall go to Raleigh about the middle of this week. May I not hope to see you there soon?

I desire to be kindly remembered in the circle of your household and to acknowledge again my great obligation to you for your valued letter.

M. E. MANLY.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From H. H. Prout.

WILLIAMSBORO' Dec. 3, 1860.

The Bishop has just left this parish and after consulting together about my taking charge of the parish at Graham, he thought it best for me to remain at my present station. One chief reason was this—the amount contributed for the support of my family here is fully equal to what it would be at Graham, and this added to the greatness and severity of the task, especially to my wife, of removing with our little children led I believe to the conclusion above stated. It is I find a great thing to break up from a quiet home and leave it and seek a new one, and unless very close indications of God's will appeared it seems to be hardly wise in me to do so. I did not however press this or any other point, but left the Bishop to decide for me on a fair consideration of everything.

Hence I hope you will believe that I appreciate very highly your kindness toward me, though following the Bishop's suggestions, I do not leave this place at present. I wished to look on the question of my removal in the light of my duty toward those to whom I am nearly related, I found it very difficult to tell which I ought to do, and for this reason left it to the Bishop to decide for me. On every account I should have been glad to have been associated with your parish as your minister, though I should have despaired of being able to justify your opinion in regard to me.

Will you accept my apology? *Pardon me*, is all I can say for seeming to make light, this second time, of an invitation so solemn and interesting. Let me assure you and all the members of your kind family that I should be sorry to lose a place in their esteem, however I may

feel compelled by circumstances to decline coming to be their minister. Let us all try to do and suffer the will of God expressed in his Providence. That Providence, I doubt not will be far wiser for us than our own plans, and do far better for us, on the whole, than we can ask or think.

From William W. Avery and Samuel P. Hill.

RALEIGH

December 7th, 1860.

To

The Hon. Thomas Ruffin,

Dear Sir;

The present perilous condition of our national affairs, growing out of the election of a Sectional candidate to the Presidency upon the express ground of his avowed hostility to Southern institutions, and the prospect of the immediate Secession of Several Southern States from the Federal Union, demands, in our opinion, the calling of a convention of the people of this State, to consider what position she will assume in this emergency, and whether she can, consistently with her own honor and safety, longer remain a member of the United States.

The undersigned are satisfied, that a very decided majority of the people of this State are in favour of a convention, to consider the matters above indicated; And Bills have been introduced into the Assembly, exclusively and solely, with a view to enable the people in convention to consider any grievances affecting, or impairing the rights and safety of North Carolina as a member of the United States, and to determine upon the mode and measure of redress.

The enquiry will arise on the consideration of these Bills, whether the General Assembly can legally and constitutionally pass a Bill, *by a majority of the members of each House*, calling a convention of the people to consider our Federal relations only, and with no view to alter or amend our State Constitution, or whether such Bill falls within the purview of the first section, of the 4th article of our constitution, which provides that "No convention of the people shall be called by the General Assembly unless by the concurrence of two thirds of all the members of each House of the General Assembly."

The undersigned are inclined to the opinion that a convention solely to consider our Federal relations may be called by a majority of the members of each House of the General Assembly, and that the restrictive clause referred to was intended to apply only to conventions called for the purpose of amending the instrument itself. But as there may be diversity of opinion on that question, we take the liberty of asking your opinion on the subject.

The time and reflection which you have devoted, in your past life, to the investigation of questions, demanding a judicial interpretation of our constitution, and your eminent position as a Jurist, would give your opinion such weight and influence as to settle and harmonize any conflicting opinions that may exist in the Assembly touching the matter involved in this inquiry. An early answer is earnestly requested.

With sentiments of the highest respect we remain, Most respectfully,
Your obedient Servants

W. W. AVERY
SAML. P. HILL.

From Samuel J. Person and Robert R. Bridgers.

RALEIGH Dec. 11th. 1860

Dear Sir;

The question whether a majority in both branches of the General assembly have the power to call a convention upon Federal Relations will probably become a practical one during the present Session—We therefore take the liberty of asking you that you will oblige us with your opinion upon the subject.

Very respectfully and truly
Your friends

SAM'L J. PERSON
R. R. BRIDGERS.

Hon
Thos Ruffin

From Daniel M. Barringer.

[RALEIGH, N. C. Dec. 12, 1860]

My dear Sir,

I have just learned that you are in town. Write this note to beg you to dine with us to-day at 4. P.M. Mr. Garrott¹—the Ala—Commissioner and other friends will be here and all of us will be most happy to see you.

Yr. friend, etc,
D. M. BARRINGER.

Dec. 12th—
Judge Ruffin

¹ Isham W. Garrott, 1816-1863, a native of North Carolina, who, after graduation at the University and admittance to the bar, removed to Alabama. He had just been sent by the State of Alabama as a commissioner to urge secession upon the legislature of North Carolina. He entered the Confederate Army, rose to the rank of brigadier general, and was killed at Vicksburg.

From William A. Wright.¹

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

RALEIGH, Decr. 19. 1860.

My Dear Sir

I had last evening a conference with Mr. W. S. Ashe² in reference to the payment of the bonds of the Wilmington and Weldon R. R. Company endorsed by the State which mature on the first of January next, and he requested me to write you as one of the holders of a number of these bonds, advising you as to the course which will probably be pursued by the company, and to ask your concurrence. These bonds will probably not be paid when due, for the reason that the sinking fund provided for their payment on the larger portion of it, is in bonds of our State, and to convert these into cash at the present prices would involve a most ruinous sacrifice. It is understood by the Company, that payment will be made whenever the holder insists that he must have the money, but as the company will have on the first of January very heavy payments to make for negro hire, interest and other liabilities which can not be deferred, it is hoped that the holders of these bonds will give us two or three months indulgence and within that time we shall be able to pay without a sacrifice of the securities of the Company. These bonds are issued and indorsed under the provisions of an Act passed in 1848—"concerning the Wilmington and Raleigh R. R. Company" which was then the name of the corporation, and I can not conceive that any such indulgence as is asked can invalidate the Security created by the endorsement of the State. Mr. Ashe left this morning and begs that you will advise him at Wilmington as to your views in the premises.

With great regard and respect

Very Truly Yrs.

WM. A. WRIGHT.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH. Decr. 25th, 1860.

Your very acceptable Christmas present of a fine quarter of mutton was sent to us last night, by our friend Gov. Manly. I thank you most heartily and we will pay our respects to it, at dinner today. Susan says "you had better wait till we have eaten it; and then you can tell the Judge how good it is." I replied to her "no, I know something of his mutton, having eaten of it often, in times long passed—and I am will-

¹ William A. Wright, of Wilmington, 1807-1878, a graduate of the University, a lawyer, and a prominent figure in the group of men who built the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, of which he was a director.

² William Shepard Ashe, of Wilmington, 1814-1862, state senator, 1846-1850; member of Congress, 1849-1855. In 1855 he was elected president of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad and held the position until his death.

ing to pronounce it first-rate, upon faith." Susan sends her thanks, and says you could not have sent her a more acceptable present—she unites with me in kind regards to Mrs. Ruffin.

I returned from Hertford on Saturday—having paid a hasty visit there, to attend to putting up my pork. I tried to sound public opinion, as it exists among the plain country people. I was mortified to find, as far as I could ascertain, that the feeling in that section Hertford, Bertie, Gates, and adjacent country, was in a great measure in favour of "the Union at any and all hazards"—in other words, unqualified submission. I heard from several sources, that the people who did not own slaves were swearing that they "would not lift a finger to protect rich men's negroes." You may depend on it, my dear Judge, that this feeling prevails to an extent, you do not imagine. You have no conception of the mischief done last summer, by the advocates of "*ad-valorem*." They infused among the ignorant poor, the idea that there is an antagonism between poor people and slave-owners—in other words Seward's "irrepressible conflict," was insidiously preached; and we shall, I fear have to reap a harvest of trouble from the seeds of mischief then sown. I find that wherever "*ad-valorem*" was urged most strenuously on pure party grounds, there the feeling of absolute submission to abolition outrage and money prevails most strongly.

I had thought if a convention was called in this State, I would be a candidate in Hertford. Since I have discovered the state of feeling there, I am doubtful whether I could be elected; unless I would pledge myself to the maintenance of the Union at all hazards, and under all circumstances. That I would not do. Although a decided Union-man in sentiment—although ready to make any reasonable sacrifices and delays, in order to save it; yet, I have no hesitation in saying, that I will surrender the Union rather than surrender the equality of my State with the other states, or our rights and property under the Constitution.¹

I have written these rambling suggestions, because I have nothing else to write about. As far as I can judge from the newspapers, the prospect does not seem to brighten. So far as our Legislature is concerned, they evidently don't know what to do—or are afraid to do it, if they do know. Why they should hesitate to let the people say what they desire, in this time of peril and difficulty—I can't imagine. Is it not humiliating to see that ours is the only Southern State, in which our relations to the genl. government are regarded as a party question?

There was a very large party at Mr. Geo. Mordecai's last night, given to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Collins. We did not attend.

Be sure to come and stay with us when you come down again.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Near Graham, N. C.

¹ Rayner served in the convention of 1861 as a secessionist.

From Charles Manly.

RALEIGH, Dec. 25, 1860.

Christmas day in the morning.

My Dear Ch. Justice.

When Cajé Foushee of Chatham lost all his Bacon on a game of guessing called "Flesh or Skin" with Hasten Poe, the wife of the said Cajé y'clepped Zany, when she saw the meat toted off, inquired of her provident spouse, what she and the children were to do; he very soothingly informed her that they would all have to "sit down and eat corn bread and feel lonesome."

It was, I assure you, with feelings and sentiments of the per contra order that a certain family beheld last night the advent of that magnificent mutton. Every body with watering mouths held up their hands exclaiming "Jeeminy! Did you ever?"

Why my Dear Fellow, it is not only the best mutton that was ever butchered, but then it is such a bountiful supply. N.B. I took good care to send Rayner the *smallest* quarter.

We shall follow your culinary directions about the Fore quarter, but Mary (Dr. Chas's wife) says that she is *bound* to have the hind quarter boiled and dressed with Capers Sauce before she'll go home; and she, being a South Carolinia Nullifier, (tho' not a fire eater) will have her way.

I wish you were with us around this rousing fire waiting for the dinner Bell; for my wife tells me that beside the Mutton and the Turkey and the what nots she intends bringing on some of that Champagne which she has kept hid so long and which we tell her does not improve by *keeping*.

Well, I went to Mr. Mordecai's Party last night, and made out to get home alive at the early hour of 2 O'ck; but young America hung on to the tune.

"We'll dance all night till broad daylight,
And go home with the Galls in the mornin'."

It was broad day when my "young uns" came in.

But such a supper! Gracious goodness, goodness gracious! However, you know how madam does when she turns her head and hands to the Flesh Pots.

My head is now in a perfect stew, or boil or roast or some how, with oysters and salad and venison and tongue (couldn't condescend to Turkey nor Ducks, nor Beef) and with potations of Port Sangaree at the start, topped off with Madeira and Sherry and Champagne. But the truth may as well be told. Smedes and Tom Hogg, who were cornered with me, were damaged equally *to the full*.

And then you never saw as many pretty girls in your life.

There stood the Bride alone in her glory stately and majestic. And I tell you what there was our Jennie "quoted and commented on" for dignified manners and graceful mein, and last but not least for her beautiful and most becoming dress.

If Miss Patty had only been there I should have felt (as Gen. Burton used to say) "elepticated by the infumigable superfusity of her diaphanous corruscations."

Please say Merry Christmas and tell her howd'ye for me.

Finally, my Dear Ch. Justice, I offer you the right hand of Fellowship and my prayers for your continued good health and a long life. Yes I will even wish you a happy New Year in the face of the maddening and portentous future. Great God! Whither are we drifting? Can it be possible that we shall never eat another Christmas dinner in the "*United States*"?

Adieu. Your Friend faithfully

CHAS. MANLY.

From Lawrence O'B. Branch.

WASHINGTON CITY

4 January 1861.

My Dear Sir.

I recd. yours inclosing a Letter from Lieut Kirkland, and laid it before the President and Secy of the Navy.

Mr. Toucey¹ informs me that by law, the finding of the Court Martial does not require the approval of the President or Secy. and in consequence its judgment had been carried into execution before the Department was even advised of its action. He does not see how the case could be acted on by the President. To exercise the pardoning power after the sentence of the Court has been carried into effect, he says, would be unusual and extraordinary even if admissable.

I was not prepared to combat his views. Mr. Toucey said he had previously examined the proceedings of the Court, with a view to ascertain whether it was legally held, and had decided that it was.

I am not familiar with the law of courts Martial, and therefore cannot successfully assail the Secy's decision. From his apparent familiarity with the case, and the confidence with which he spoke, I fear

¹ Isaac Toucey, of Connecticut, 1796-1869, member of Congress, 1835-1839, governor of Connecticut, 1846-1847, attorney general in Polk's cabinet, United States senator, 1852-1857, secretary of the navy during Buchanan's administration.

any attempt to procure the interposition of himself or the President will be vain.

I did not file the papers, but will await any suggestions your superior judgment may enable you to make

With great respect

Your Obt. Servt.

L. O'B. BRANCH.

Hon Thos. Ruffin.

From Charles Manly.

RALEIGH Jan 16/61.

My Dear Ch. Justice.

I return you by tomorrow morning's mail Train (Thursday) your Boxes with a reiteration of thanks for their contents.

I also send you by Adams Express of tomorrow (Frt. paid) a small Box containing a few articles of Table consumption, (Creature Comforts, Judge Potter) for yourself and Mrs. Ruffin and the *children* with instructions that in the division Miss Patty is to have 2 shares.

I wanted to put in the Box for her a mince pie and a "Hoss Cake" but my old oman insisted that she would make game of it.

I knew better and told her that Miss P. was too well bred for that; and besides her Mince Pies and Bill Sorrell's "Hoss Cakes" are not to be sneezed at nor laughed down! but nothing would do and I had to knuckle.

As compensation for this loss she is "bound" to have them 2 shares.

Bid her be of good cheer and not "take on" too much; I have sent 56 Bags of Cotton averaging 452 lb. to London and Bryan of Boston who say they'll get 20c for it; and when *the money comes* I'll set up for myself and send her 2 hoss cakes, or bust.

Well, our Country is destroyed forever!

No reconstruction of the whole nor partial organizations will be worth a Button. There can be no confidence in its stability or integrity; without credit at home or abroad, this great nation which yesterday was the glory of its citizens and the admiration of the world has in 90 days sunk down to ruin and contempt by the machinations of the Devil and Bankrupt Politicians.

With true regard, Yours

CHAS: MANLY.

*From W. C. Kerr.*¹

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Jan 20, 1861.

Sir;

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing you this note, on act. of the circumstances. Rev. Mr. McNeill informed me that you had had a number of cases of Diphtheria in your black family, and had been very successful in treating it with some simple remedies.

That dreaded disease has appeared in our midst and I beg you to inform me what your treatment was, if the statement above is correct. You will so oblige many others besides

Your Most Humble Servant

W. C. KERR.

Hon. Judge Ruffin
Alamance.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO, Monday

Jan'y 21. 1861.

I returned here on Saturday from Fairintosh—where I had gone a farming, but goodness gracious what a time I had of it in Water Mud and mire. I came back here with a horrible cold that made me think all day yesterday that I might have a Doctor about me with Cups. mustard plasters and blisters—but I shall escape all such pests. I feel very much better today.

My wife felt well enough to attend church on yesterday but against my wishes, the rest of my household all O. K.

Our friend Col Jones has been and is I fear yet quite sick. I have had no very satisfactory account of his condition since Saturday Night when I saw him in company with Dr. Ed. Strudwick.

The Dr. then said he was doing very well—skin a little soft—expectoration free and improving, cough less troublesome, organs all acting, but Browne said yesterday that he had a bad night. It is an attack of pneumonia, and at his age we can but feel exceedingly anxious for his safety. I am most sincerely and affectionately attached to him. The spirits of the entire family are much depressed. They have had their full share of trouble for the last Month—in the indisposition of nearly every member of the family—and the death of two of the most useful of his negroes.

¹ Washington Caruthers Kerr, 1827-1885, a graduate of the University and a professor in Davidson College. He was state geologist from 1869 to 1884.

At home I was told that 20 bags containing 2 bushels each of pease had been marked to you at Graham and sent out to the R. R. I was told that they had all been passed through a wheat fan, and I hope you will get all and find them in good order. I would advise that you put them *instantly* in a *dark place*, kept dry, or you may find them destroyed by worms before Spring. You will be pleased to learn that Mrs. Roulhac was out at church on yesterday with her little boys.

I try to keep myself employed but I find my mind nearly all the time occupied with the State of the Country and it makes me very unhappy. I love the Union. I love peace. I think the Union is gone and we shall have war, if the Military men can get it under way. My conviction is now stronger than ever that the United voice of all the slave states would be listened to—and if fight we must then let us be fully prepared. . . .

*From Rufus S. Tucker.*¹

RALEIGH, N. C.

Jan. 24, 61.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

My Dr. Sr.

I am under many obligations to you for the Cabbages, and particularly for the *promptness* which you display in all business transactions, and I should have answered yours sooner, but my letter was put by mistake into Mr. Frank Haywood's box, and only received it a moment ago. The Cabbages are fine. Mother, Bro, Wife, and myself enjoy them exceedingly and desire to be remembered to you.

The House of Commons this day passed the convention bill, time 28th of February for the Election and then subject to the *Call* of the Governor.

On tomorrow a proposition is before the House, to appoint *yourself*, Hon. Weldon N. Edwards, Hon. K. Rayner, and Ed. G. Reid² as delegates, to meet those of Virginia and other Southern States at Washington City on the 4th of Feb. to devise some mode of settlement of our national difficulties. No news from Washington today.

Very Respt.

R. S. TUCKER.

¹ A merchant of Raleigh.

² David S Reid was the delegate nominated and elected.

From Cadwallader Jones, Jr.

[HILLSBORO, N. C.]

Saturday evening. [Jan. 26, 1861.]

I have just seen Gov. Morehead, and send you a message from him.

You are appointed one of five Commissioners to Washington. The others are Gov. Morehead D. M. Barringer, Geo. Davis and ———
———¹ name not recollected.

The Convention to meet on 4th Feb. as proposed by Va.

Honl. Thos. Ruffin.

My Father's condition is more favorable than when you left.

From Ward and Co.

NEW YORK 28 Jan/61.

Honble. Thos. Ruffin

Graham

Alamance Co.

N. C.

Dear Sir

We beg to acknowledge receipt, from our friend Mr. A. N. Gifford (who has just received your letters of 21st. and 23d. inst) of \$11,450 to be invested in North Carolina 6% stock: due care being had to the selection of bonds concerning which there can be no question, for your account.

It will afford us much pleasure to transact any business for you that lies in our power and we trust that we shall merit the reputation that Mr. Gifford has been good enough to give us.

The Fulton Bank certified both your cks. but stated that they overdrew your a/c \$58. the amt. to your credit being \$8,442. Shall we deposit this amt. to your credit?

We have purchased \$14,000 North Carolina sixes at 77% for tomorrow. These bonds have been in the possession of a Savings Bank in Brooklyn for many years and are beyond a doubt all right. We enclose statement of purchase shewing balance to your credit after purchase \$635 . . . How shall we send the bonds to you, and what disposal shall we make of the balance?

Our address is 54 Wall Street N. Y.

Respy

Your obt svts

WARD AND CO.

¹ David S. Reid.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO, N. C. Tuesday,
Jany 28th '61.

. . . Hope you will have fine weather for your trip to Washington. Keep your eye on those who talk about "a Central Republic"—and in the language of old Hickory "ask only for what is right, and submit to nothing that is wrong." You go not to make a good bargain for the South but to obtain justice and to have that secured by unrepeatable provisions of the Constitution, except by the consent of all the Southern States.

Exclude the Negro of all degrees of blood from the ballot box.

I fear nothing can be accomplished and that we must take our place with our Sister States of the South.

Commission As Delegate To Peace Conference.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

To the Honorable Thomas Ruffin: Greeting:

The General Assembly of North Carolina, reposing special trust and confidence in your integrity and ability have elected you a Commissioner to represent the State of North Carolina at a Convention, called at the instance of certain States of the Union, and to be held in the City of Washington, D. C. on the 4th day of Feb. A. D. 1861, and in all things to exercise the duties and powers of such appointment according to your best judgment and discretion.

In Testimony whereof, His Excellency, John W. Ellis, our Governor, Captain-General and Commander-In-Chief, hath signed his hand to these presents and caused our Great Seal to be affixed thereto.

Done at our City of Raleigh, on the 29th day of
January, A. D. 1861, and in the 85th Year of our
Independence.

SEAL

JOHN W. ELLIS.

By the Governor,

GRAHAM DAVES,

Private Secretary.

From Edmund Strudwick.

HILLSBORO' 2 Febr'y. 1861.

Hon: Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir—Knowing that intelligence from your old friend Colo. Jones would be highly gratifying to you, I drop you a line explaining his condition—all day yesterday the scene seemed to be drawing rapidly to a close. His voice failed him—he refused food—and was oppressed with anxious and difficult breathing. We again gave him a small dose of Elixer of opium—it gave him a comfortable night—and he has taken to day more food than he has for three or four days past—and altho' he is *very prostrate*—and his vital forces at the lowest ebb, the wonderful tenacity for life he has manifested, affords some hope of his recovery, but I ought to say it is almost the only hope. Brown's wife is sick with a sort of Rheumatic fever. She is much better, and will be up in a few days.

I hope you may meet with success in your important mission to the Federal City, and accomplish all the objects of peace and patriotism—but I fear the effort is doomed to failure. The Cotton States will hardly accept an arrangement made by the border free and slave States, and if the States already out are not satisfied, even if an arrangement is made which they ought to adopt, can not they be permitted to go in *PEACE* and allowed to work out their own destiny—under the overriding and controlling law of necessity, will not Mr. Buchanan be in the discharge of a high and holy duty, to withdraw the federal forces from all the Forts, as the *only certain mode* of preserving the relations of Peace between the two sections, if the Union can't be reconstructed let not its dismemberment be stained with blood. Pardon the pill-man for intruding upon you his political nostrums—best wishes for your health—success and safe return to your family and friends.

I remain very truly and

respectfully yr friend

E. STRUDWICK.

From Thomas P. Devereux.

CONEMARA Feb. 4th 1861.

My Dear Sir.

The intense interest I take in the present crisis must be my excuse for troubling you. In the first place let me say that I am well aware of the economical habits of our people and there may be and probably will be, expenses attendant upon your meeting for which no provision has been made. In that event far be it that the North Carolina depu-

ties should bear those expenses, and I pray you all to enter me upon the list, and assess me according to your ideas of fairness.

No one can tell how I value our present institutions, their value is pressed upon me as I feel they are endangered—for one, I have only written a few members stated for the information of the people of my county that if they saw fit to elect me to the convention they must do it upon the plainly expressed feeling I had to preserve the Union as it is, that I wished all possible guarantees for it *as it now stood*, and wished nothing but the constitution and the whole constitution. To you however, who are in a position to (I hope) insure these guarantees I pray to say two words. We have always differed and probably still differ upon the general principles of construction to be given to the constitution, upon *reserved rights* and the like. It seems to me now that the difference between the right of secession and of revolutionary resistance is merely nominal, revolution is implied in secession and the reverse. An old Federalist as I am can only deplore that if the right as no reserved one is claimed and conceded that it is more readily asserted than if it was a revolutionary measure, although its effects are the same. for the present I concede it, but my dear sir is it not plain that in its thoughtless and hasty use it is and must be destructive of all public credit? Will capitalists take stocks of the United States if the market value of those stocks can be depreciated, at the mere will of the weakest member of the unproductive expressed upon the whim of the people or of partisan and demagogue managers if so is there not an end to any system of finance—perhaps in the long run this may be an advantage—but will it not in times of stress, a war or the like, deprive the government of all power of anticipation—besides we have had woeful proof of the great injury which may and will result to our own people upon its hasty and ill judged exercise. you know of course that I deny the right. Many of the wisest of the Democratic party (alas there are now no parties) do the same, still if an error it is I fear so extensive a one as to have all the power of truth. will it not be best to concede the principle, but by some proposed amendment to limit its exercise. Now suppose you reflect upon the idea of which the right is conceded limiting its exercise upon notice, say, pursuing the analogy of our constitutional provisions, to two or four years, the longer the better, give us at least some such notice as an overseer is bound to give of his intention to leave. Do not plunge us into a state of anarchy without any warning. Give the business community time to arrange for the crops and above all things give the people time for the operation of the sober minded thought.

I know that I am treading on dangerous ground when I call to your recollection to the fact that in common with many others I always held that the sedition law was an unwise, a very foolish exercise of a very necessary power, one equivalent in a government to the right of self preservation in an individual, can any government stand long when appeals to the grossest passions of the ignorant against it are entirely

allowable and not only allowable but evidence of a love of liberty. If a wretch is allowed to denounce our Union as a "Covenant with Hell" and the like, can it stand long. Now observe I do not wish congress to be authorized to pass a law which shall tend to foster the spirit of loyalty to the Union. I do not wish any power to be permitted to curtail in the slightest degree the spirit of free expression as to the acts of individuals, although I am free to say that I love the old common law rule of libel, but I pray you to think if some provision cannot be made by which the states upon their loyalty, nay allegiance cannot be authorized and even required to provide that all publications either from the press the pulpit or the rostrum (now a potent instrument) tending to the destruction of the spirit of loyal submission, of due observance of constitutional obligations should be punishable. I am well aware of the difficulty which will probably arise from complications of plans and amendments. A spirit is abroad which I fear will sooner or later destroy our Union and that spirit is mainly evidenced by declaration that obedience to the Federal powers, allegiance to the Union, is subordinate to that due the individual states. I have done. I only wish to give hints, the time necessary to get this to the mail forbids my saying more and I have no wish to elaborate a discussion. God in his mercy (and the expression is not lightly used) enable you and your compatriots to bring peace and quiet from the present disturbed elements by which we are surrounded. Make my regards acceptable to your associates by whom I am known and believe me

Most Respectfully
Yours

T. P. DEVEREUX.

From Ward and Company.

NEW YORK 4 Feb/61.

Honble. Thos. Ruffin
Washington
Dear Sir.

At the request of Mr. A. N. Gifford we beg to acknowledge receipt of \$2,500 to be invested in North Carolina 6% coupon Bonds.

We had this pleasure on 28th and 31st ult. in the former advising of purchasing of 14,000 N. C. 6s, a 77% leaving balance to your credit.

\$635

and in the latter advising of deposit of \$57.57 in Fulton Bank by direction of Mr. Gifford, to make your a/c good it being overdrawn to that amount by your cks, \$5,000 and 3,500, received from Mr. G. on 28th ult.

We addressed our letters to you at Graham, Alamance Co. N. C.

Under advice from Mr. Gifford we defer purchasing for your a/c for a few days.

Very truly

Your obt. svts.

WARD & Co.

P.S. We enclose duplicates of our letters of 28th and 31st as the originals may not reach you for some days.

From John Tyler.

CONFERENCE CONVENTION

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 4, 1861.

Mr. Thomas Ruffin

Delegate from North Carolina

I hereby certify that you are a member of the Convention.

Respectfully,

JOHN TYLER,
President.

[CIRCULAR]

WASHINGTON, February 4, 1861.

*To The President and Commissioners
of the People's Conference Convention:*

In asking for a seat in your body as one of the sixty thousand in the Pike's Peak region, I respectfully submit a few brief remarks, with proposition for your consideration, and stanza for a National Ode, prophetic of the crisis.

History presents no event so striking as early Roman fidelity—for 500 years—a divorce unknown. Future generations must select this as the pivot on which the existence of our National Union hangs.

With a determined fortitude—a calm, deliberate integrity of purpose, I hesitate not in appealing to the people to save their country, their rights, their dearest possessions of home and family, from the traitor—the selfish politician and statesman—through a convention from their ranks, which class in all ages have produced the most courageous and fit.

The United States must not be divided, cut up, and weakened. The hand who would sever the cords which bind us together as a nation should become powerless in the vile attempt—God forbid!—it cannot be. If the Almighty has in any one instance shown himself partial, it is to this favored land, and I call on every true heart and honest man,

To strike down mad ambition, which seeketh to rend
The tie, which our ancestors fought to defend;
Rekindle the beacon, ere the last spark is fled,
And light up the camp fires 'round Liberty's bed.
Awake! Awake! oh, Land of the free!

May It Then Be Resolved:

The Governor of each State select six from the Commercial, Mechanical, Educational, Professional, Scientific, and Art classes, three of each six to be elected on the 20th February, to meet in convention at the Hall of Independence, Philadelphia, on the 1st March, to *carry out the will of the people as expressed on said 20th February, on the following points:*

Preference 1st—On Reconstruction, or Renewed Constitution, securing new President and Representatives generally, direct from the ranks of the people, on changed sentiment.

Preference 2d.—Confirming Republican power, elect, with slave guarantees, by a qualification of the Constitution, through Convention 1st March, to restore harmony and union.

W. C. JEWETT, of Pike's Peak.

From ——— ———

BALTIMORE 5th Feby 1861.

Thos. Ruffin Esq.

My honoured fellow Countryman.—

May I presume in the capacity the proud capacity of an American Citizen to appeal to you and through you to every member of the Peace Committee to save our dear country.

O may I ask in all Sincerity of heart for our dear Country which I do passionately love. That all else, may be laid aside—that all may be Statesmen and Patriots *only* and agree Unanimously on a plan that shall give to us equal rights and equal laws and forever banish the discussion of Slavery from the Halls of Congress.

The Union is worth every Sacrifice. Save that at *all* Hazards. *It can be done.* Let it be too Unanimous.

Sincerely yr. friend

A SOUTHERNER AND

A LOVER OF HIS COUNTRY.

From William K. Ruffin.

AT HOME Feby 5th, 1861.

I hope to make my letters acceptable to you, by always having it in my power to give you pleasing intelligence from my Mother and the children—as is the case at present. Mama has just left me, and she bids me say to you that she is very well, desires her love and that you should remember her injunctions and your promises to “take good care of yourself.” The rest, white and black, are as you left us. Jesse is going about and Osborne, I understand, is not worse and the Dr. hopes to save his eye. The Overseer has been unable to do *much* on the plantation. It began to rain on Friday morning and continued to do so until yesterday afternoon, and is now threatening.

We have had no accounts from your old friend, Col. Jones, since Saturday morning. He was growing perceptibly weaker every hour and his mental powers had begun to give way. We can hardly hope to hear that he yet survives.

There is too much talking going on around me to command thought, but if I could, I certainly would not *bore* you with any political reflections. I hope, as I before said, to make a line acceptable by sending good news from home, and the most interesting and agreeable you can send us, will be intelligence of a similar kind about yourself. Which we hope to receive often.

There has been a meeting called, I learn, to be held on Monday next, at Graham, to nominate Candidates for the Convention. There will be, it is said, an attempt to make it a *party* concern and to nominate Partisans as candidates. I do not know what success is likely to attend the effort, but I have no doubt that you will be the almost unanimous choice of the “better sort” of people in the county.

Sterling is hurrying me to finish so that he can carry my letter to the P. Office.

You need not be told, my dear father, how often you are the subject of the thoughts and conversation of all here. We never meet but you are immediately the subject of our good wishes, our hopes and our fears. “Take good care of yourself” and whatever be the result of your Mission in a political view, return to us happy and well!

All join in expressions of heartfelt love and veneration.

[P. S.] I enclose herewith a letter from N. York.

Mama says she begins a beggar, will you do her the favour to buy a set of carriage Harness!

From Edmund Strudwick.

HILLSBORO, Wednesday 5 Feb/61.

* * * * *

There is great anxiety in the public mind on the subject of your Convention, the fear that it is too late to accomplish its patriotic purpose seems to be in the ascendant. Is it possible that it is the object of the incoming administration to perpetuate the stupendous and aimless act of folly and wickedness in coercing the Southern seceded States—the impression here is that Coercion will be its policy. If the Washington Convention were to pass a resolution calling upon Mr. Buchanan to withdraw the forces from the Southern forts and acknowledge the independence of the Southern Confederacy, as the only mode of averting evil war, might it not induce Mr. B. to adopt this course of mercy and necessity. May God in his great mercy deliver our Country from its present perils.

From D. W. Courts.

TELEGRAM.

Dated Raleigh Feb. 6, 1861.

Rec'd, Washington, Feb. 6, 1861, o'clock, min. M.
To Chief Justice Ruffin.

How about the advertisement of Bonds. Let me advertise for one (1) or both years.

D. W. COURTS
Pub. Treas'r.

From Ward and Co.

NEW YORK 8 Feb/61

Honble. Thos. Ruffin
Washington
Dear Sir

Your esteemed favor of 6th is at hand, and we duly note contents. Under advice from Mr. Gifford we still defer completing your order. Stocks were dull and the market closed heavy at the Board.

Respy.

Your obt svts.

WARD AND CO.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

GRAHAM Feby 11th 1861.

I write you, today, to say that, I believe, there is a very general wish, in this country, to vote for you as a member of the coming Convention.

So far as I learn, you will receive the support of most of our better citizens of all parties; and would do so to an extent amounting to, almost, unanimity, if it were not that your position has been grossly misrepresented.

There has been, and still is, a great effort made, on the part of some, to make a party matter of it; and the persons, who are thus disposed, are taking great pains to report you as being in favor of immediate and unconditional Secession:

In this way they have affected some good men, and kept them in their own ranks, who would, otherwise, have given you a hearty support; and they will yet do so if they can be made to understand your real sentiments:

This then is the immediate object of my writing—to beg that you will adopt some means to get before our people, your opinions and sentiments:

I will get Dr. Montgomery to address you a letter, asking your consent to serve in the convention, and in your reply, if you think proper, you can give your views:

If you do so, I beg that you will not delay that we may have an opportunity of getting it public.

“The Union Men” hold a convention today to nominate Candidates! Who will be their candidate is not certainly known, but it seems to be regarded as pretty sure that McAden will be one and I rather suspect that Dr. Watson will be the other:

You must pardon the freedom with which I make suggestions to you; and I am sure will do me the credit, to think that I have not done so in a spirit of presumption.

I was down to see Mama yesterday and am glad to say that she and all are well, with the single exception of brother William who is suffering a good deal from cold.

I was instructed to say that there was nothing of interest to communicate, touching your farming operations; Save only that Mr. Longest, the Carpenter, had been at work on your houses, but had to suspend for the want of shingles, and to beg you, if you had not already ordered them, to do so at once, as he is impatient to finish the job.

Mama expected to go to Hillsboro today, but I presume will not do so, as it is now raining:

We have had a week of delightful weather, and have begun to do a little towards gardening. Our man Harry boasts, not a little, that he had peas up on the day that Jesse put his in the ground.

If I did not know that your time was so fully occupied, I would beg you to write to me, as it is I must be content to hear of you through others.

My own family are very well, and Mary sends her best love, to you, and says that she hoped if you have the slightest wish for me to join you in Washington, you will not hesitate to say so, for that she will willingly let me go.

[P. S.] The meeting here, today, has nominated McAden and Harbor.

From D. A. Montgomery.

GRAHAM Feby 11th, 1861.

The Union Convention held here to day after much difficulty have put in nomination R. Y. McCaden¹ and Harrison Harbor Esq as Candidates to represent Alamance in the State Convention.

I understand they are for the Union unconditionally and under all Circumstances.

I have taken some pains to ascertain public sentiment and learn that in the Northern part of the county and Hawfield neighborhood you can get almost the entire vote.

I will vouch for the votes of the people west of Graham living between the Alamance and Haw River.

It is due that I should say that in the Newline Country I am told they are against you.

You are represented as having taken a stand against McCaden and his warm party-friends are assailing you upon that ground. They also charge that you are in favour of Immediate Secession.

Now that we have taken the responsibility to announce you as a Candidate and placed the name of Reed M. Hughs on the ticket with you, Please if you can possibly find time to do so, give us in as condensed manner as you can your views that we may have several hundred thousand struck off and put in circulation.

By this means we can successfully counteract the erroneous charges and I with many others think secure your election by a triumphant vote.

Let me hear from you at once as time will be limited before the election, and we desire to make the best run we can.

Osborne is getting well and the sight will be preserved.

¹ Rufus Y. McAden.

From William Badham, Jr.

EDENTON Feby 11th, 1861.

I hope yr. many and responsible duties will allow you sufficient time to do me the kindness to say, whether, under the Convention Act, a man, who is not a citizen of No. Ca. (so far as the elective franchise is concerned) ought to be allowed to take his seat in the Convention? The inquiry has been suggested, by the nomination, in this county, of a gentleman, who has resided here but a few months, having removed from an adjoining State.

An early reply will greatly oblige.

From William K. Ruffin.

AT HOME Feby 15th 1861.

* * * * *

There is not a single case of ailment on the plantation, except *Marion* whom you left in the house and she has not been out since. Dr. M. says there is nothing serious in her case. Osborne is improving and will be at home probably the latter part of the week.

John has been, of course, busy planting seeds in the garden, wherever the condition of the ground would allow it. He started before day this morning to Rockingham. John Roulhac went with him.

The Overseer finished ploughing over the river early on yesterday and commenced in the field before the House. The land, he says, is in fine order and if the weather should keep open, he expects to finish the field by the end of the week, and to begin seeding Oats on Monday. His stock of every description is in pretty good condition with a prospect, however, of being scant of provender for his cattle, as he finds upon examination, that a large quantity of the straw is mouldy and unfit for use, if not quite rotten. He has 35 lambs.

Mr. Longess (the Carpenter) has now been at work on the stakes for a week. He will be out of work for want of *shingles* unless you order them soon, or have already done so.

The wheat on the Hill in view of my window, looks quite grown. As that was near the last that was sown, the rest of the crop, of course, must *make quite a show*.

The weather has been clear and pleasant for the past week with the exception of a slight fall of rain on sunday evening. Yesterday it was delightful and promises to be so today.

"The Meeting," as advertised, was held at Graham on Monday and as expected by your friends, you were *not* nominated for the Convention. The nominees were McAdden and an old gentleman by the name of

Harbour, whom you may remember, as having come to the county six or seven years ago from Virginia. I have seen no one, who was at the Meeting, but the two young men who are reading with me. Nash says that McAdden and his friends are extremely bitter towards you, from a declaration you are reported to have made, that you would not consent to be nominated and run as a candidate with *him*. The conversation in which this declaration is supposed to have been made, was held, I suspect, with George Bason, and either misapprehended by him, or, as I fear, wilfully misrepresented. If you desire it, I do not doubt, that your election can be easily secured, and that you are the choice above all others, of nine tenths of the respectable men of the County—But I suppose you have been written to by others better informed upon the subject than I am.

I hope your labours will soon be over at Washington and that you will return to us in good health and spirits. That they will have a happy termination in procuring peace and security for the country. I do not much *hope* because I almost *despair*.

The whole Household joins me in expressions of affectionate and dutiful love.

From William K. Ruffin.

AT HOME Feby 18th 1861.

I do not doubt that you find my poor letters particularly uninteresting and the only hope I have of relieving their dulness is that I have it in my power to give you the most satisfactory information of the continued good health of my dear Mother and the rest of the family, and our well doing in all other respects. Mama returned from Hillsboro' on Saturday. She is in appearance perfect in her health and as cheerful, as I daresay, you would think she ought to be, in your absence. Her visit was not one of pleasure, but she seems to have enjoyed the company of her children and friends and to have the satisfaction of feeling that her kind offers of affectionate sympathy were not unavailing in imparting comfort to the bereaved. Poor Col. Jones remembered you and spake of you to the last, knew of your errand to Washington and expressed his wishes that it might have a favorable result.

Mr. Cameron has been suddenly called to his Plantation in Miss^l. He was informed by Telegraph that an attempt had been made by two of the slaves he leased out this fall, upon the life of the overseer. Whether successful or not, was not stated.

John Brodnax is here, having arrived on Wednesday, and on that day, as I mentioned in my last, Jesse started with John Roulhac to his House. The latter is at Dr. B's and will remain there until John goes home. Jesse reports all well and all going on well at the plantation.

The overseer here, has finished ploughing the field in front of the House and will haul up and get out his seed oats to-day with the hope

of being able to commence seeding tomorrow. The heavy clouds however present a bad prospect for that operation, just now. He carried on Friday and Saturday (two loads a day) four loads of cotton to Wm. Holts. He has no particular message for you, except that he and his people are getting on well together and that he is doing his best to "catch up."

I believe I should not say a word upon the subject of the convention, were it not to correct an unjust and ungenerous surmise in my last as to our neighbour Bason—*He* was not a party to any misunderstanding misconstruction or misrepresentation of your conversation with him, but the error grew out of false representations or inferences made by others.

Thomas has either written to you or will probably do so today—and as he has opportunity of knowing the state of affairs much better, than myself I need not trouble you with my conjectures upon the matter—only this I will say, that I learn through our excellent neighbor, Billy Rogers, that *at present* the vote in the neighbourhood would be nearly unanimous in your favour and as far as he has heard—such would be the case among respectable people throughout the county. He thinks it would be well, if you would address a short letter to a half dozen gentlemen in different parts of the county expressing your feelings and opinions, and, if you think proper to pursue that course, I would suggest as suitable persons, to whom your letter should be addressed, Messrs Gab. Lea, John Newlin, Ed Holt, John Trollinger, and Dr. Montgomery.

Some how or other, my dear father, we are not at all uneasy about you, relying, I suppose, upon your promise to take very good care of yourself. If we should be so, we should be quite unhappy, as we hear nothing (in *a manner*) from you—your letter to Mama came on Tuesday—the day she left home—and for fear of our imprudence in divulging secrets of State, we were not allowed to know its contents until her return, this is *all* we have heard from you directly or indirectly since you left Raleigh. *Ought* it to be so? Well, when you are not busy, we hope you are *enjoying* yourself, in the gratification arising from the forming of the acquaintance with great men, and cultivating the friendship of the good, the wise, and the patriotic. We hope and pray that when you *do* come back to us, we may see you well and happy.

From Sarah B. Ruffin.

PHILADELPHIA Feb. 18th, 1861

Dear Sir:

You will doubtless be surprised to receive a letter from one who writes to you for the first time; but I hope it will be agreeably so.

If you receive my communication with as much pleasure as it affords me to write to you I shall feel highly flattered. So long a time has elapsed since you saw me that you may have forgotten Sallie Ruffin of Franklin; if so, this will remind you of me. I have long felt pained, to observe the course pursued, at the South, in regard to the dissolution of the Union; and deeply regret, that so many of my relations, particularly my Brothers should be such strong secessionists; and you can not imagine, what delight, it affords me, to learn, that one member of the Ruffin family, and that one, the oldest and most esteemed representative of the family, should be a Unionist and a delegate to the peace convention. I think a good many Northerners agree, with me in opinion, that a few more men like Judge Ruffin would redeem the Ruffin family; and the South generally. I regret to perceive, from the News-papers, that our distinguished cousin Edmund Ruffin, of Va, has set such an example for the younger Ruffin's; as, to exert his influence, in the opposite direction: he has made a fatal mistake. I would beg of you to convert my brother Thomas, while you are at Washington City, to your political creed; but, I know any attempt to change him would only be a waste of your time and eloquence; as he has forsaken the faith of his Father and Forefathers, who adhered to the Government, under all circumstances.

May I claim the privilege of one of your name and kindred, to ask a favour of you. Will you be kind enough to send me your Photograph, that I may possess a memorial of you. My physician Dr Kirkbride would also be pleased to have your likeness. Although, I am a great invalid, I appreciate any kindness and attention very highly; and should be exceeding gratified, if you comply with my request. By so doing, you will confer a pleasure, upon one, whom Affliction and Misfortune have left little to enjoy on this Earth; but if you decline I shall be greatly disappointed; as I have set my heart, upon having your likeness; as I never expect to see you in person, again, unless you visit Philadelphia; if you do, I shall be glad to see you. If you have your Photograph taken, for me, give it to Brother Thomas to send to me, by the Express; or some certain way; but if, he is not in Washington please direct it, to

MISS SARAH B. RUFFIN

Care of

Dr Thomas Kirkbride

Philadelphia, Pa.

Accept my best wishes, for your success in your glorious undertaking; and believe me yrs

with the highest regard

SARAH B RUFFIN

From Ward and Co.

NEW YORK 18 Feb/61

Honble Thos. Ruffin
Washington
Dear Sir

At the request of our mutual friend Mr. A. N. Gifford we have to ask farther advice on the subject of investment of the balance belonging to you in our hands.

The price of North Carolina securities will depend so much on the political aspect of affairs, that we hesitate in purchasing. As you are in a more favorable position, to see the probable result of the present compromise negotiations than ourselves, we must ask the favor that you will advise whether we shall purchase or wait. Prices will undoubtedly advance in view of a settlement or of the *probability* of one.

We remain

Yours truly

WARD AND CO.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

GRAHAM Feby 18th 1861

I have received your two letters, for which I was more than grateful, and would have answered them both, before this, but that I wished to delay until something definite had been determined on, as to your being a candidate for the convention.—

In accordance, to what I understood you to say, in the last conversation had with you, I stated to those who inquired of me, on the subject, that, while you would not consent to run as a party candidate, or as the nominee of any caucus, yet that you were willing to serve the country, if it were the wish of the citizens.

Upon this information a large number of our best men determined to announce you as a candidate, and to vote for you as such; and that they might do so consistently, a large number of them, both parties, refused to go into the meeting which had been called for the purpose of selecting candidates;

In obedience to their wish I had you announced as a candidate and on the same ticket Mr. Hughes, who gave his consent to it: Since then Mr. Hughes has withdrawn his assent and is no longer a candidate, and there are but three persons now known as candidates, Messrs. McAden and Harbour, who were nominated at the meeting, and yourself.

I have not felt at liberty to withdraw your name, for that very deep interest is felt in the Election by those, whom I know you respect and

esteem, and they have taken up the cause with more enthusiasm than I ever saw, and they will not hear to it.—

As to the result, now, I can not speak with any confidence, though I am told by others that the country will give you a *very large* vote: If Mr. Hughes had continued in the field I entertain no doubt but that you and he would have received a very large majority: What the effect of his withdrawal may be I am not yet advised.—

Your position is stated to be in favor of the Union provided proper concessions can be obtained from the North, but if not, then you are for the South's taking her position of defence. That the plan proposed by Mr. Crittenden has your approval provided it be amended in two or three particulars: It has certainly been my purpose to make known your opinions honestly and not to add to or withhold from it to suit the opinions of others.—

Mr. McAden is canvassing the county; with what effect I do not know. I would meet him but that I know it were bad policy—it being so well known that I am in favor of “immediate secession.”—

The issue here is “Union under [any?] and all circumstances,” and our people, I think, are opposed to any convention:

I learn that Mr. Edwin Holt made a speech on Saturday last, in his neighborhood, advocating your election, but have not heard what effect his effort had.

I hope to see you at home soon, and trust that you may not have suffered any inconvenience from your stay and labors in Washington.—Mama returned from Hillsboro on Saturday and is well, as are all our friends in Hillsboro.

Your own family and mine are all well, and mine send much love to you.—

Osborne is very much improved.—

[Address: Washington City D. C.]

From W. N. H. Smith.

WASHINGTON CITY Feb. 20th 1861.

Hon. T. Ruffin
Willards Hotel
Dear Sir

I promised to make an inquiry as to the rule of the House on the subject of the introduction of resolutions and bills and give you the result in a note to day. Next Monday is the only day left of the session when bills and resolutions can be offered except by unanimous consent. On that day it is in order to introduce them for reference only. By unanimous consent only can they be offered on any other day.

As an amendment in the second degree is as far as you can go, a call of the previous question, if sustained, cuts off all amendments in remoter degree and brings the House to a direct vote upon the original proposition and the two amendments, one of which must be adopted or all voted down. While these impediments are in the way of any action upon new propositions, I have just been told by a member from Ky. that to force an expression of opinion from the House, he should submit certain motions indirectly involving the merits of other propositions for adjustments.

I conferred however with Mr. Corwin¹ who seriously desires in good faith a compromise and if the Peace Comssrs. agree upon anything which he feels at liberty to offer, he will offer it as a substitute for his own recommendation and he will not press a vote for several days if he can reasonably hope for some such agreement soon. So I understand him.

I am very respectfully etc.

Your obt. Servt.

W. N. H. SMITH.

From William K. Ruffin.

AT HOME Feby 25th [1861]

Dr. Curtis, who came up on Saturday, is about to return, and I write you a note to be mailed by him on the cars—I hope however, that we shall have the pleasure of having you at home, before it reaches Washington. Should that not be the case, it will give you the satisfaction of knowing that we are all well and doing well here and should be in every respect very comfortable, if we could only know that *you* are well. Mama tells me give her love with her positive injunction that you should either come home or let her know how you are. She cannot imagine what the matter can be. She has received but *one* letter from you.

I can hardly think it necessary to enter into any detail about matters on the plantation, as you surely will be able in a few days to obtain more satisfactory knowledge by your own personal inspection. I will mention however that the overseer will complete his operation of sowing oats and picking cotton to-morrow. He has had fine weather during this month and he has pushed his laborers so as to bring his work up.

¹ Thomas Corwin, of Ohio, 1794-1865, a native of Kentucky, member of Congress, 1831-1840, 1859-1861; governor of Ohio, 1840-1842; United States senator, 1845-1850; secretary of the treasury, 1850-1853; minister to Mexico, 1861-1865.

He wishes to know what ought to be done with the flour? It is, I believe, ground at the mill, ready, if you wish it to be sent to market. He also wishes with your leave, to purchase two mules. He has sold for forty dollars your two old ones and says needs others in their place, very much. Very good ones have been sold here, recently, for one hundred dollars or less.

I hear of no great excitement about the election, which is to take place on thursday. If nothing untoward happens, there is no doubt, I am told, of your being returned by a large majority. The people desire a permanent settlement by constitutional provisions of all the questions connected with slavery and they will only be satisfied with a fair and just arrangement by which their rights of property and their peace and quiet may be secured.

I write this confusedly by the noise of conversation around me.

We hope to see you well and hearty in a day or two.

We all join in assurances of love and devotion.

From N. M. Long.

TELEGRAM.

Dated Weldon Feb 27 1861.

Rec'd, Washington, 1861, o'clock, min. M.

To Judge Thos. Ruffin.

Can anything be done answer.

N. M. LONG.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.¹

Report of the Commissioners from North Carolina.

We present as follows the report of Hons. Daniel M. Barringer, David S. Reid, George Davis, Thomas Ruffin, James² M. Morehead, Commissioners of the Peace Conference from North-Carolina. The Commissioners content themselves with giving a mere statement of their own action, leaving the details to be gathered from the journal of the Conference, which will be printed in a few days, and from which we

¹ From *State Journal* (Raleigh), March 6, 1861.

² This should be of course John M. Morehead.

will publish extensive extracts when it reaches us. In connection with this report we give the proposed amendments adopted by the Conference, with the vote on each article separately. The report is as follows:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27th, 1861.

Sir: Under the appointment of the General Assembly the undersigned repaired to this place for the purpose of meeting commissioners from other States, under the invitation of the State of Virginia, and uniting in devising some plan for settling the unhappy sectional differences which have agitated the public mind and endangered the Union. A meeting took place at the time appointed, viz: the 4th day of the present month, and it has been continued from day to day until the final adjournment on this day. The Convention sat with closed doors, but a journal of the proceedings was kept, and one of the last acts was to remove the injunction against its publication.

In the progress of the meeting representatives from twenty-one States came in; and after much discussion and long deliberation the consultation resulted in the adoption by a majority of the States of seven sections, as amendments of the Constitution of the United States, and presenting them to the Congress now in session, and requesting that body to propose them for adoption by Convention in the several States, in accordance with the provisions in the Constitution on that subject. A printed copy* of the amendments is enclosed for the information of the people and authorities of North Carolina.

Upon the final question of adopting them, the vote of the State was given unanimously for the third and fourth sections. Upon the others there was a difference of opinion. A majority of the Commissioners, viz: Messrs. Reid, Barringer and Davis, were of opinion, that those sections ought not to be and would not be satisfactory to North-Carolina, and therefore felt bound to cast the vote of the State against the first, second, fifth, sixth and seventh sections—while the other two Commissioners, Messrs. Ruffin and Morehead, thought it their duty not to reject absolutely any guaranties, which the non-slaveholding States might offer for the security of the slaveholding States, but to submit them to the people of North-Carolina for acceptance or rejection upon their own deliberate judgment, and therefore they felt bound not to obstruct the adoption of those sections but to give their voice for them, though not coming up fully to what they or the people might deem right or proper.

The journal of the Convention is not yet printed, but it will be in a few days; and the undersigned have ordered that several copies of it should be sent to your Excellency, that the various and numerous propositions under the consideration of the Convention may be seen and understood, and particularly the votes cast on them by North-Carolina.

The undersigned cannot anticipate what disposition Congress will make of this matter, but a few days must determine it. Nor do the undersigned possess any authentic information upon the question, whether, should Congress propose those amendments, they will fail before the States, or be ratified by a sufficient number to incorporate them into the Constitution.

We have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedient servants,

D. M. BARRINGER,
DAVID S. REID,
GEO. DAVIS,
THOMAS RUFFIN,
J. M. MOREHEAD.

To His Excellency,
John W. Ellis,
Raleigh, North-Carolina.

*See the proposed amendments alluded to below.

THE PEACE PROPOSITION.

The following is the compromise adopted by the Peace Conference, and recommended by that body to Congress as amendments to the Constitution. In connection with this we give the vote on each section separately.

Section 1. In all the present territory of the United States, north of the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes of north latitude, involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime is prohibited. In all the present territory south of that line the status of persons held to involuntary service or labor, as it now exists, shall not be changed. Nor shall any law be passed by Congress or the Territorial Legislature to hinder or prevent the taking of such persons from any of the States of this Union to said Territory, nor to impair the rights arising from said relation. But the same shall be subject to judicial cognizance in the federal courts, according to the course of the common law. When any territory north or south of said line, with such boundary as Congress may prescribe, shall contain a population equal to that required for a member of Congress, it shall, if its form of government be republican, be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, with or without involuntary servitude, as the constitution of the State may provide. This was adopted by a vote of 9 to 8, as follows:

Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Tennessee—9.

Nays—Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North-Carolina, New Hampshire, Vermont and Virginia—8. Divided—New York and Kansas—2. Not voting—Indiana.

Sec. 2. No territory shall be acquired by the United States except by discovery and for naval and commercial stations, depots and transit routes, without the concurrence of a majority of all the Senators from States which allow involuntary servitude, and a majority of all the Senators from States which prohibit that relation; nor shall territory be acquired by treaty, unless the votes of a majority of the Senators from each class of States hereinbefore mentioned be cast as a part of the two-thirds majority necessary to the ratification of such treaty. (Adopted by a vote of 11 to 8.)

Yeas—Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia—11.

Nays—Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North-Carolina, New Hampshire and Vermont—8. Divided—New York and Kansas—2.

Sec. 3. Neither the constitution, nor any amendment thereof, shall be construed to give Congress power to regulate, abolish or control, within any State, the relation established or recognized by the laws

thereof touching persons to labor or involuntary service therein, nor to interfere with or abolish involuntary service in the District of Columbia without the consent of Maryland and without the consent of the owners, or making the owners who do not consent, just compensation; nor the power to interfere with or prohibit representatives and others from bringing with them to the District of Columbia, retaining and taking away, persons so held to labor or service; nor the power to interfere with or abolish involuntary service in places under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States within those States and Territories where the same is established or recognized; nor the power to prohibit the removal or transportation of persons held to labor or involuntary service in any State or Territory of the United States to any other State or Territory thereof where it is established or recognized by law or usage; and the right during transportation, by sea or river, of touching at shores, ports, or landings, and of landing in case of distress, shall exist; but not the right of transit in or through any State or Territory, or of sale or traffic, against the laws thereof. Nor shall Congress have power to authorize any higher rate of taxation on persons held to labor or service than on land. The bringing into the District of Columbia of persons held to labor or service for sale, or placing them in depots to be afterwards transferred to other places for sale as merchandise, is prohibited. (Adopted by a vote of 12 to 7.)

Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North-Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia—12.

Nays—Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont—7. Divided—New York and Kansas—2.

Sec. 4. The third paragraph of the second section of the fourth article of the constitution shall not be construed to prevent any of the States, by appropriate legislation, and through the action of their judicial and ministerial officers, from enforcing the delivery of fugitives from labor to the person to whom such labor or service is due. (Adopted by a vote of 15 to 4.)

Yeas—Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North-Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia—15.

Nays—Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire—4. Divided—New York and Kansas—2.

Sec. 5. The foreign slave trade is hereby forever prohibited; and it shall be the duty of Congress to pass laws to prevent the importation of slaves, coolies, or persons held to service or labor, into the United States and the territories from places beyond the limits thereof. (Adopted by a vote of 15 to 5.)

Yeas—Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont and Kansas—15.

Nays—Iowa, Massachusetts, Maine, North-Carolina and Virginia—5.

Sec. 6. The first, third, and fifth sections, together with this section of these amendments, and the third paragraph of the second section of the first article of the constitution, and the third paragraph of the second section of the fourth article thereof, shall not be amended or abolished without the consent of all the States. (Adopted by a vote of 10 to 9.)

Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Tennessee—10.

Nays—Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, North-Carolina, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Virginia—9. Divided—New York.

Sec. 7. Congress shall provide by law that the United States shall pay to the owner the full value of his fugitive from labor, in all cases where the marshal or other officer, whose duty it was to arrest such fugitive, was prevented from so doing by violence or intimidation from mobs or riotous assemblages, or when, after arrest, such fugitive was rescued by like violence or intimidation, and the owner thereby deprived of the same; and the acceptance of such payment shall preclude the owner from further claim to such fugitive. Congress shall provide by law for securing to the citizens of each State the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States. (Adopted by a vote of 12 to 6.)

Yeas—Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Virginia—12.

Nays—Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, North-Carolina, Missouri and Vermont—6. Divided—New York. Not voting—Massachusetts.

From John M. Morehead.

GREENSBORO 5th March 1861.

I was at Raleigh yesterday and found our friends Badger, Moore, Bryan and others well pleased with our resolutions. They said the secessionists were trying to make dissatisfaction with the 1st Section—professing not to be able to understand it—and particularly they seemed not to understand—according to the course “of the common law.”

They all put the proper construction upon it—but to put that quibble to rest—we came to the conclusion that it would be as well for some one to write you a letter on the subject, and get your reply and publish it.

I drop you this line, that you may have the subject under consideration, and the reply ready and if no application is made for an explana-

tion I would respectfully suggest that you prepare such an article for publication with or without yr name as you prefer. Our resolutions give genl. satisfaction, but I understand our colleagues represent them as a rickety affair, and Brother Davis, I am informed, made a strong speech vs. them at Wilmington which was rapturously reed. by not unwilling ears.

I am exceedingly anxious to see the inaugural. I fear its effect very much. Chase is in the Cabinet—it is said—if so there is danger. Nothing certain in Raleigh when I left last evening, but it was said that Seward, Bates, Blair, Wells, Chase, Cameron, and Montgomery [Blair] are the Cabinet, if so, the South refused seats in it I expect, and it was said the inaugural would demand the return of all the property seized, the collection of duties etc., etc. If so I fear all hope is gone—but let us keep cool and all may come right yet.

P. S. I go to Charlotte by the 2 o'cl train today—where I may get mobbed—but I shall risk it—and if I am—you must come up and share the Honors with me. Charlotte is a young Charleston.

From Bartholomew F. Moore.

RALEIGH March 7/61.

Judge Ruffin

My dear Sir;

As a fellow citizen with you, both of the State and the Union, earnestly and deeply interested like yourself in the maintenance of the National Government, I have awaited with great anxiety the conclusion of the Peace Conference.

The result of its labors has been announced to the country. In the midst of feverish excitements in the popular mind, swayed by strong passions leading in different directions, and to most opposite counsels, it was not to be expected that any plan of reconciliation would meet with unanimity. A plan suiting one party of extremists, would, of course, be obnoxious to the other and to the moderate party; while any plan, favored by the latter, would be certain to encounter opposition from both of the others.

I have carefully read the plan proposed; and I am content to adopt it as an adjustment of the slavery question. An altar, on which, I think, both sections of the Union may, in safety and honor, and ought to in a spirit of patriotism, sacrifice their resentments and dissensions.

I regretted much to see from the published votes of the Convention, that the vote of North Carolina had been cast against all of the seven propositions, except the *third* and *fourth*. I am satisfied that the people

of the State would pass them all by a majority of six to one; and I am exceedingly gratified to be informed that you favored each of them.

The first one, fixing the status of slavery in the *present* territories south of 36, 30, disposes, in my opinion, of the source of disputation which hitherto has proved most vexatious—And connected with the second seems to me to dispose of every contest which would be likely to arise under the existing claim of power in Congress, in respect to territory hereafter acquired.

You are doubtless aware what pains have been taken to depreciate and vilify the propositions; and that the plan has been denounced as a “swindle,” a “cheat” a “sham.” And that among them all the first proposition has been made the especial object of attack, as wanting in clearness, and perspicuity of meaning. One critic objects to the use of the term “status”; and another to the reference of the rights of the master to the rules of the “common law.”

In my judgment, a more apt or better understood term could not have been selected to indicate the relation, condition, standing a civil capacity of one “held to service or labor.” The term is strictly legal and in popular use, and understood alike by lawyer and layman.

As to the rule by which rights, arising out of the *Status*, was to be determined, it was clear, that some *uniform* standard, best known and best adapted to the purpose, should be selected. None was so suitable as the Common law: with the exception of Louisiana it is the foundation of the laws of every slaveholding State:—And every man conversant with its principles, knows how readily it adapts itself to every relation which can exist between man and man, or between man and the things which are the subjects of ownership.

I have seen with surprise such objections made to the first proposition: they are, in my opinion, as offensive to sound criticism and legal knowledge, as they are unjust to the integrity and ability of those who wrote or approved the proposition.

But, my dear sir, the object of this letter is to request and earnestly intreat that you will, in a few numbers under your own signature, published in some newspaper, express your views upon the plan—explaining and amplifying the reasons for the different propositions and what each one will likely accomplish. This will effectually disabuse the public mind of erroneous interpretation industriously attempted to be created and circulated for the purpose of bringing into odium the results of your labors.

The wish I here express is concurred in by many of your intelligent friends. I suggested it the very evening you passed through the city on your way home, to two gentlemen, and they insisted I should lose no time, and I regret that I have postponed it an hour longer than to allow you the necessary repose.

The work will come from you with the utmost propriety:—from no one else with so much fitness and authority. Your opinions will pro-

duce convictions, which would be accorded to no other man in the State, and will be read throughout the Union.

Allow me then, my venerable friend, to entreat you to place your beloved country once again under obligations to you, and to add one more to your eminent and life-long public services.

I am most sincerely

Your friend, full of gratitude
for your noble services to
save the country

B. F. MOORE.

From Robert R. Bridgers.

TARBORO N. C.

March 12, 1861.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir

Lieut. Pender¹ spoke of seeing you on your return from the Peace Conference, and said that you expressed a willingness to give him a recommendation for an office in the Army of the Southern Confederation if he should apply.

Mr. Pender has resigned and has gone to Montgomery to apply for an office in the Army. He has been in the army U.S. about eight years has been in active service on the Pacific the most of the time and has done some good fighting in some of the Indian Campaigns. At the time he left California he was adjutant to his Regiment, and was at the time of his resignation the youngest officer in the recruiting service; has a very good mind, and excellent habits and more than ordinary reputation for drilling raw recruits.

If you will give him a letter you will greatly [oblige ?] both him and your friend and

Obt. Servt.

R. R. BRIDGERS.

P. S. The Franklin substitute has no friends here.

¹ William Dorsey Pender, of Edgecombe, 1834-1863, graduated at West Point, and, after service in the old army, resigned to enter the Confederate Army. He was commissioned a captain, was immediately elected colonel of the 13th Regiment, and soon afterwards became colonel of the 6th. He won his promotion to brigadier at Seven Pines, was promoted to major general in 1863, and was mortally wounded at Gettysburg.

From John H. Wheeler.

WASHINGTON CITY,
March 24th, 1861.

Allow me to present to you the enclosed chart. It is the result of much labour and research; and is much esteemed here as a ready reference of dates and facts. I send you by same mail the Patent Office reports as you desired.

Political matters here are even more out of joint, than when you were here.

The report today is that Va will go out soon—that Maryland will follow. A friend who knows states that this has created much feeling in certain quarters—in so much that a special messenger (Colo. Lamon, from the White House) has been sent to Richmond making every promise that could be expected against coercion—and offering every guarantee in Lincoln's power. The opinion is expressed here that it is doubtful, if Lincoln can remain here his term. Certainly if Va and Maryland go, it will rather an uncomfortable place. Experience will show that a party organized as his is, cannot administer successfully the Government: The Morrill tariff while it will bring no increased revenue, will estrange the commercial interest of the North—while it will recommend to the great manufacturing power of Europe the more generous and genial confidence of the South. The unscrupulous proscription which they are so ruthlessly carrying out, would sink any party. You saw some of the men around the new dynasty. But the crowds that now lay seige to the Departments have only been equalled by the Goths and Vandals, that overran and took "the Eternal City." I resigned on the 14th, seeing that my removal was certain. It was agreed that I had discharged my duty with fidelity and ability—but a man from Ohio was hungry and asked for my place.

I wish to return to N. C. You can, my dear Judge, aid me. The Chair of History is vacant at the University. Colo. Peter Force, Geo. Bancroft, the N. C. members of Congress, Hon. Jacob Thompson have without any influence of mine written to the Board. These testimonials are in hands of Gov. S. One word from you would be a much service. I wish to issue another edition of my History of N. C. and render it more complete and more worthy of public attention. It certainly received a kind reception, far beyond its merits—for an edition of 10,000 copies was sold.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From W. R. Denny and Others.

BRICK CHURCH P. O., N.C. March 30th 1861.

Hon Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir

At a Union Meeting held near the Regulation Battle ground in Alamance County to day it was declaired to raise the Flag of this Nation on said Battleground on the 16th day of next May—and the undersigned having been appointed a special Committee to confer with you on the subject, beg leave most Respectfully to request your attendance on that occasion

Respectfully Your Obdt. Servts.

W. R. DENNY

JOEL SHOFFNER

A. E. ENNISS

Committee.

From E. M. Holt.

HOLTS STORE 30th March 1861.

I am much pleased to hear that your health is improving. I would have gone down to see you during our court week but did not like to intrude on you after your incessant labours at Washington. I have not language to express my mortification at the conduct of *some* of the citizens of Alamance county. I was not aware that we had in our midst men so destitute of principle and who could stoop so low as to be guilty of so base falsehood. I have charity enough yet to believe that our people would act right if left to think for themselves.

* * * * *

From Bartholomew Fuller.

WASHINGTON D. C.

Apl 2nd 1861.

I received your favor of 20th Ulto in answer to mine of 16th in due course. I have very much to thank you for, your kindness has been uniform and great and, I trust, I may yet prove myself worthy of your regard and esteem. I shall rest my case entirely upon the letter of yourself and one which I had the pleasure to receive from Govr. Morehead, and should I be removed I trust I shall bear it with philosophy and resignation returning to the bosom of my native State to share her fortunes and her destiny.

Perhaps, during my residence here, I may be able to serve you in some way. I would be pleased in any manner to repay your kindness in some degree and will cheerfully execute your orders. There seems to be rather more prospect, the last day or two, of an extra session of Congress, but I think it will be dispensed with if, by any possibility the government can get along until next Decr. The traditional injury of an extra Session to the Administration in power will deter the movement until the very latest period, and the issue is one which will be very gladly avoided altogether.

* * * * *

Hon Thos Ruffin
Graham N. C.

From Paul C. Cameron.

RALEIGH friday noon [April, 1861]

Rail Road Station.

I write to say that I have made a suggestion today that the Bank of N. C. send a messenger to New York, to get certain valuables. I think one will go, would it not be well for you to come down on the early train of Monday—and let your matters be *included* in the business of the Messenger.

No special news from any quarter to day—it is said that the Sec. of War seeks an interview with the Gov. of Virginia—it is believed that preparations are being made for the destruction of *all the* property at “Old Point.” . . .

From Ward and Co.

NEW YORK 10 Apl/61

Honble. Thos Ruffin
Graham

Alamance Co. N. C.

Dear Sir

By direction of our mutual friend Mr. Gifford we have purchased for your account \$1,000 North Carolina 6^s. at 76% and debit you for same 760

1/4% com^s 2.50

\$ 762.50

Yours truly

WARD AND Co.

From Ward and Co.

NEW YORK 12 Apl/61

Honble. Thos. Ruffin

Graham

Alamance Co. N. C.

Dear Sir

Under advice of our mutual friend Mr. Gifford we have purchased \$3,000 more North Carolina 6^s. at 76% and hand you herewith statement of a/c shewing amt. to your credit \$72.⁴³ which we trust will be found correct. The fact of 3 mos. Int. being deducted from some of the bonds and not from others, is on account a rule of our Board that all N. C. Bonds shall be made equal to Jan and July Bonds for the purchaser.

Yours truly

WARD AND Co.

Bought by Ward and Co
for account of Hon. Thos. Ruffin

1861			
April 11	\$1,000 North Carolina		
	6% Bonds a 76%	\$760	
	less 3 mos Int-	15	
		\$745.	
	1/4 coms - -	2.50	\$747.50
" 12t.	\$3,000 Do. Do. a 76%	\$2280	
	less 3 mos Int. on \$2000—	30	
		2250	
	4000 1/4% coms	7.50	2,257.50
			\$3,005.
Memo. of a/c —			
Cr. By Balc. pr Statet. 28th Jan.			\$635.
1861			
Jan 31	Dr. To deposit in Fulton Bk		57.57
			577.43
Feb 4	Cr. By ck on Bk Republic -		2,500.
			3,077.43
Apl 11/12	Dr. To \$4000 No.Ca. Bds. pr Statet. herewith		3,005.
	Balance to Cr. in a/c		\$ 72.43

From Ward and Company.

NEW YORK Apl. 15, 1861.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin
Alamance—near Graham
North Carolina.

Dear Sir,

We have your favor of 8th Inst—which came to hand this morning, only.

You will perceive by our letter of 12th Inst, that we have anticipated your wishes, by the purchase of \$4,000 No. Carolina 6% Bonds.

The bonds are all previous in date, to this year.

Mr. Gifford desires to be warmly remembered to you.

respectfully yours,

WARD AND CO.

From George W. Swepson.¹

HAW RIVER 20th Apl. 1861.

Judge Ruffin

Dr. Sir—Since you left I learn there is to be a general muster at Graham on Saturday next. Would it not be best to postpone the address till that time? I will write to Giles Mebane and Mr Hughes what you think best.

I am Yrs etc.

G. W. SWEPSON

From D. A. Montgomery.

GRAHAM April 20th 1861.

I was the second man in Alamance to volunteer my services to the State in the great and impending struggle now before us.

In doing so I was prompted to serve in the capacity of a common soldier, and am still willing and ready to do so when called, but as you suggested today, that I ought to go in a different capacity, I have given the suggestion some consideration and will ask for information how and to whom I should apply for the office or appointment of Surgeon or assistant surgeon.

¹George W. Swepson, of Alamance, a prominent citizen of the county who, during Reconstruction, became notorious for his part in looting the State.

I suppose each Regiment will be entitled to one principal and one or two assistants. All things considered I might if I could procure a situation as such be able to render as good and efficient service to my friends and the State as I could in any other capacity.

Will you give me the above information and in the event I decide to make the application, would you give me some aid by letter or otherwise to the appointing powers that be.

Ten out of fifteen men that have enrolled on my list stand pledged to vote for Thomas for Captain.

From J. S. Scott.

GRAHAM Apr. 23. 1861.

I herewith send you bill of weatherboarding plank just received for you today, amounting to Thirty Eight dollars and forty Seven cents (\$38.47). The Ten barrels of Flour I will forward in the morning to Gov. Ellis as ordered by you and will send it free of charge the other flour I will hold and send to Norfolk when you are ready for it to go off.

[P. S.] The Fayetteville men took the Arsenal yesterday without resistance (they surrounded it with 2200 men before it was given up) Another hard fight reported at Baltimore northern Regiment driven back said to have taken place yesterday good many killed on both sides. this Report is from Raleigh this Evening.

From Graham Daves.¹

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, April 25, 1861.

Your most acceptable favor of the 23rd inst. has been received.

I am instructed to reply and to thank you most cordially for your disinterested and patriotic action.

The flour forwarded by you shall be duly forwarded to the parties designated to whom it will be a most grateful supply.

This course of procedure is necessitated by the fact that a camp has been established here, to prepare bread for which occupies all the time of the baker of whom I spoke to you.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

¹ Graham Daves, of New Bern, 1836-1902, private secretary to Governor Ellis.

From Thomas R. Cain.

FORT MACON

April 26th 1861.

Dr Jones was so kind as to hand me your letter upon its receipt—for it permit me, Sir, to tender to you my most sincere and heartfelt thanks. I am indeed grateful to you not only for the interest and steps you have taken to procure my advancement, but far, far more so, Sir, for the kindly feelings and affection expressed in your letter; and allow me to say, sir, that they are *fully* appreciated and more than reciprocated—of the three situations you mention I should prefer the Quarter Master—were it not for the impediment in my speech I should rather have a staff appointment and enter upon action and actual duty but with this misfortune I could not hope for advancement as a commanding officer and hence am desirous to serve my cause to the best advantage and in *any way* even should that be as a private. I am afraid however from experience that I could not stand the life of a private—however my *life*, my energies, *my all* are at the service of the South, in whatever position or manner she may please to require them. I have spoken to Dr Jones and requested him to do, as you suggested. Will you be so kind as to address Mr Cameron in reference to this matter and request his influence—will you also acquaint Gov Ellis, in whatever way you may see fit, of the impediment in my speech. We have up now and ready for use 15 Thirty-two pounders and 4 Six pounders—and are pushing things along to get up all as soon as may be; have been delayed by want of carriages—and are still deficient in them. Those acquainted with such matters think the fort can not be taken except by a very powerful force—even though our gunners are sadly lacking in skill. The men are all in fine spirits and anxious for an attack. We have 6 companies amounting to about 400 men—and, if one can judge from appearances, equally able and willing to do battle in their country's cause. Our representative Josiah Turner is here; he came down to join the Orange guards but being advised not to make the attempt he applied to the Guilford Grays upon the ground *that the Orange company was filled* and is now a member of that company. I have seen nothing of him but am told he is evidently uneasy. On the whole we have a much pleasanter and easier time than I had expected as well as better quarters. Every one, I believe, is highly pleased with our commandant, Col Tew. Dr Jones is second in command. Tom, I think, greatly improved by his trip—I sincerely trust he will in a short time entirely recover from all his ailments.

* * * * *

From D. A. Montgomery.

GRAHAM, April 27—1861.

I was not a little surprised on yesterday evening when Mr. McCaden handed me the enclosed letter from Dr. Jeames which I fear commits Thomas to the Command of the Mebaneville or Haw Fields Company.

Can it be that Dr. Jeames wrote thus without authority.

We have already upwards of Sixty volunteers and I feel very confident that our number will be increased to day to 100 or upwards.

I feel much concerned about this matter and our men are so anxious to organise that I fear it will be out of the question to prevent it, untill I could hear from him.

It was understood between him and myself that he would take command of our Company.

Please give me your advice, and Interpretation of the Drs. letter to Mr. McCaden and say if its his writing. Enclose all back.

P. S. If it were possible to do so I would go down to see you, but I have to go on drill this morning 7 o'clock and will be at the depot untill 10 or 11.

Should you be coming up this way in the forenoon I would be pleased to see you.

If there is any thing important from Thomas let me know it.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From Rufus S. Tucker.

RALEIGH N. C.

April 27 61.

Hon. Thos Ruffin

Dr. Sir.

Our soldiers here are lying on the naked Boards for the want of wheat straw for Beds, can you not send us down two or three car Loads of Straw at once.

Your friend

R. S. TUCKER

Commissary Department

Raleigh N. C.

From Ward and Company.

NEW YORK Apl. 29/1861.

We have your favors of 20th and 24th Inst, the former with enclosures amtg to \$4476.50 which with the balance \$72.43 due you, we will invest in North Carolina Bonds as directed. Sales were made today at 56% and we should have bought but the seller could not tell in what year the bonds were dated. We will buy at private sale. (By the rules of the stock board we have to take all bonds of the State of N. C., and cannot refuse those of this year, without special bargain. We have not, however, as yet seen any of this year's date, against the purchase of which you cautioned us lately.

From Rufus Y. McAden.

GRAHAM N C

Apl 29th/61

The Committee appointed to procure uniforms and C for Con Soldiers wish to meet to-day, as we think we should not delay. We should be glad for you to come up

From D. A. Montgomery to Mrs. Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

GRAHAM April 30, 1861.

The Alamance Regulators¹ was organized yesterday evening by the election of the following officers,

Thomas Ruffin Capt, D. A. Montgomery 1st, Wm. H. Faucett 2nd, and Jno Albeus Murray² 3rd Lieutenant. The three first named received every single vote of the company, the latter elected by a very considerable majority over *Mr. Brome*.

The adjutant Gen informed me that we will be ordered to Raleigh in a few days. Our boys all want their new clothes, before they go—indeed that seems to be the only trouble they have.

I have written to Thomas to come home and take the boys in charge, for it requires everlasting vigilance to keep them all right.—

I dont intend to leave them one hour untill he arrives.

It may not be improper to say that the command was first unanimously tendered to me, nay a second time, for particulars I must refer you to Jno. Faucett, who I believe was the only outsider present.

¹ Company E of the Thirteenth North Carolina.

² John M. Murray succeeded Thomas Ruffin as captain in September, 1861.

From D. A. Montgomery.

GRAHAM April 30. 1861.

I enclose to you a letter from the Adjutant General in which you will see that a Uniform has been adopted for the state at large and Mr. McCaden and Mr Boyd after the interview had to day with you has promised to act in the premises. W. H. Faucette has been dispatched first to Thomasville to buy the shoes, with instructions to go on to Charlotte, Columbia or if need be to Charleston to purchase cloth, hats, Blankets and C—in accordance with the letter enclosed.

I infer from Mr Stokes letter that we may possibly be permitted to remain at home for some time, perhaps, untill we can be fully equiped.—this will meet my approbation provided we can be furnished with a drill officer otherwise I am of opinion it would be best to leave home at an early day, for fear of some outside influence. We are still a Unit in feeling and sentiment, but an everlasting and eternal vigilance will be necessary to keep this state of things up, so long as we remain in this neighbourhood.

Do you understand that a surgeon appointed here, would be recognised as in full power and charge of our men, upon the condition his expenses are met and paid by the county.—

I would have no objection to go before the Medical board for examination. If you should speak to them upon the subject of an appointment for me, please inform them that I am not a Graduate. as I would rather suffer disappointment than that they should be misled or deceived in any particular whatever.—I think there is few men or women who will have sons or kindred in the Army from Alamance that would not readily sanction my appointment by petition or otherwise.

After receiving Mr Stokes letter to day I decided to go down to your house to night but have too much work to do for to morrow, making out a list of such men as I desire to make our Company full.

From D. A. Montgomery.

GRAHAM May 3d. 1861.

The Alamance Regulators 100 full have all signed a tender of their services without a moment's hesitation, no backin down with any. We are still a unit in feeling and in every thing we do. The Company this moment took a vote and with the same unanimity of feeling have expressed a wish that I should have the appointment of Surgeon.

The Hawfields Co nos 55. The Mt. Shannon Co. 21. I made a talk yesterday that swelled their numbers.

I am appealed to from every portion of the country to come to their rescue, and I am of the opinion that if the Adj^t. Genl. will give me a furlo for a week from our company and they desire it that I can raise volunteers enough to form a Regiment soon, will not however absent myself from duty in my own company for a moment unless by the consent and desire of all parties, although I am very hoarse and well nigh broke down, yet I believe I can hold out long enough to accomplish much good, and have no doubt of getting a Regiment, yes I am satisfied it can be done and that quickly.

What think you of the propriety of making the trial.

My dear Sir we must not give up the ship, but *work work work* untill it is accomplished.

Consult the Adj^t. Genl. consult Thomas and all our friends and let me know their wishes.

I can raise the new regimt. from our country, I know I can do it.

[P. S.] I will hold our roll untill Thomas arrives.

[Address: Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Adj^t Gen. Office

N. C. Militia

Raleigh, N. C.

Gen. Hoke will please

put this in the hands of Judge Ruffin immediately.]

From Bartholomew Fuller.

FAYETTEVILLE May 8th 1861.

I desire to express my gratitude to you for a renewed instance of kindness towards me. I received, yesterday, your note of 3d inst advising me that in your opinion it was my duty to resign my position in Washington and return to the State as soon as practicable. I am confident, therefore, that the course I have pursued will meet your approbation.

As soon as the reply of Gov. Ellis to the requisition for troops was received in Washington I determined to come home; accordingly I resigned on 22nd April and left Washington on 29th having been compelled to employ the interval in collecting some moneys due me and disposing of my furniture. As I remarked in my letter to you of 16th March last I have ever held myself ready to discharge my obligations

to my State and I am here now in the time of her need to do what in me lies for her protection and defence.

I feel honored, I assure you, by the kindly interest you have manifested in my welfare and prospects and in the assurance thus given that I may freely apply to you for advice and counsel in time to come.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Raleigh N. C.

From Rowland and Brothers.

NORFOLK May 8th 1861.

Dr. Sir—When we ordered on the Tea for you we were sure of getting it unfortunately it was intercepted and we now replace it to best our ability,—make the most of it for you know all articles of import are or will be scarce if this blockade is kept up—which however we trust will be throughout the south because we are surely convinced it will forcibly teach us more practical independence than ages of theory and we then cannot be made self sustaining thereby we had better cave in we must forego the luxuries the necessities grow to our hand—true we will suffer but our energies are recuperative whilst our enemies are wasting daily for their tonnage rots idle and factories rust without material or a market.

Your last 9 bbls Flour advised of have not yet been received here—Flour is selling very well but we suppose under the impression of a want of it your State authorities prohibited its exportation from your State. We cannot for a moment think there can be any possibility of a scarcity flour for we are on the eve of a new crop and are an exporting country for it with no outlet now and it will be very strange if we have any deficiency. We are glad to see by your letters from Georgia and S. Ca. that more corn and provisions and less cotton is in practical operations the enhanced values of both will be compensating.

We are very quiet here in a business way the blockade in Hampton Roads is most contemptibly carried on not even a small fish boat is allowed to pass every thing that can be done to worry us is practised but all serve to estrange us farther day by day—from all reports we may expect an attack for repossession the Navy Yard we have a strong force here and increasing every day and any landing will be strongly contested—our river approaches are strongly fortified.

[P. S.] All of our employed force being off to the wars our business details suffer some—excuse any delays we will attend best we can to anything ordered.

To John K. Ruffin.

ALAMANCE—May 9th 1861

My Dear John,

Being in Raleigh last week, I learned from Dr. Taylor, that you had been there also a few days before, and would, probably, be there again today, as an applicant for a post in the Army as a professional man. I hardly think you will get one, as there are so many applying; and I hardly know, whether to wish you success or not, since you have so many domestic obligations on you. At all events, We hope and suppose, you will extend your present jaunt as far as even to us, if it be but to stay one night, for one cannot foresee in the present state of the country, whether, when parting from a friend, one will ever see him again. Thomas left us yesterday for an encampment for a short time at Weldon, and thence into actual service. May God prosper him and our cause!—

Manuel, within these few days, complains again of the pain in the stomach and bowels, for which you formerly prescribed (I believe) lunar caustic pills. If you come up, bring some of the medicine with you, if you please; and, at any rate, send some and a written prescription. We are all here well, in the house, but would be most unhappy, were not the excitement so intense. God bless you and your dear wife and little ones!—

Your Father,
THOMAS RUFFIN.

[Address:

Dr John K. Ruffin
Care of Col^o. Edward Yarbrough,
Hotel
Raleigh, N^o. Ca.]

From Joseph A. Engelhard.

TARBORO N. C.
May 11th 1861.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Dear Sir

I see that you are announced as a candidate for the Convention. Taking it for granted that your people will elect you, I desire to inform you that I shall offer as a candidate for assistant or reading clerk of the Convention and desire your support and aid in my behalf. I can make you if necessary numerous references of the most satisfactory kind, in regard to my qualifications and fitness for the position.

Hoping to receive your support, if consistent with your wishes, I am
With great Respect

JOS. A. ENGELHARD.

[Address: Graham Alamance Co. N. C.]

From Ward and Company.

NEW YORK May 11, 1861.

Dear Sir,

We have delayed buying your bonds, as we thought that we should be able to do better for you by waiting. You will see that we have not been incorrect.

We have bought for your a/c \$8.000 North Carolina 6% Bonds at 55%

Coms/4%

\$4400

20

\$4420

We note your instructions to detach the July coupons and deposit them in Fulton Bank to your credit—which we will do next week, when the bonds are delivered.

Whenever Adams Express Co. will receive valuables for delivery in your state, we will forward them to you, unless otherwise directed.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

From Bartholomew Fuller.¹

FAYETTEVILLE May 13th 1860.

My Dear Sir

Some ill-meaning persons in this community have seized upon the fact that I had written you a letter some time since in reference to my retention in Washington and have endeavored to deduce conclusions reflecting upon my integrity and fidelity. In order that I may meet the charge with materials at hand for my vindication, will you add to the obligations you have already laid me under by sending as early as convenient the letter I wrote you on 16th March last from Washington or if you have not retained it will you not state for me that in the position I held with reference to the whole matter, so far as came under your observation there was nothing either dishonorable or disloyal in the steps I took to secure my retention under the general government.

I have your letter but I desire mine also or a copy in order that the necessary connection of the request and the reply may be clearly apparent.

With the highest esteem and regard

I am your obdt.

Hon. Thos Ruffin.

B. FULLER.

[Address: Graham Alamance Co. No. Car.]

¹ Bartholomew Fuller, of Fayetteville, was a graduate of the University in the class of 1851. He was a journalist and later quite a prominent lawyer.

Internal evidence and the earlier letters would indicate that this letter was written in 1861 though its date is a year earlier.

*From Gaston D. Cobb.*¹

GRAHAM May 14th, 61

I will again call your attention to the request I made of you on yesterday, to urge upon you the necessity of addressing the people at Boons Station tomorrow. They sent a messenger here last night to say to me that if possible to have you and G. Mebane there

From D. A. Montgomery.

IN CAMP, GARYSBURG N. C.

May 14th 1861.

We arrived at this place friday evening, and by permission of Col. Pender have erected us a building 22 by 100 feet and have very comfortable quarters.

Col. Pender eats and sleeps with us and we find him courteous and kind to all, and especially so to the Alamance regulators, who I feel authorised to say stand high in his estimation, every man has been found at his post at all times and evinced a determination to do their duty, and I am proud to say that the same unanimity and good feeling exists in our Company, that existed while in Alamance.

We have about 450 men in Camp some as rough and uncouth men as N. Carolina can produce.

Capt. N. Scales arrived to day from Rockingham and Capt. Settle is expected at Weldon to night, whether he will be removed to this encampment or not is somewhat doubtful.

A large force of carpenters are at work erecting buildings so as to accommodate the various companies as fast as they arrive.

We have not heard from home yet and begin to feel some anxiety to know what our friends are doing for us, in the way of getting up our equipage.

Judge, we earnestly desire to have it sent to us at the earliest period possible.

Our stock of provisions is getting short and we would be glad to be replenished by tuesdays Train first of next week.

I understand that I will be ordered home on Saturday on business and will try and see you on Sunday.

Please inform the various committees that I will be at home Sunday and Monday and want to see them in Graham very early Monday morning.

¹ Gaston D. Cobb was captain of Company I of the Eighth North Carolina.

One of our sentinels has this moment cut one of Scales men who with some violence attempted to force by him.

Col. Pender accords to him great credit for doing his duty, wound is slight.

Col. Pender has called on me for a plan for a hospital and I must close and turn my mind to that subject.

[P. S.] 2d Regiment today orgnsd. Williams Col. Cantwell Lieutenant. Col. Burton major.

Vote for convention by our Co. Ruffin 41. McLean 39. Morton 1.

From Rowland and Bros.

NORFOLK 15 May 1861.

Dr. Sir—Yours 9th received—we send a bill enclosed 20 bbs Sugar and Coffee as ordered,—One bbl the Sugar is loaf the other ordinary Brown we had no Coffee Sugar any kind and could not get it. We presume again on the times in sending it as we suppose under the circumstances it will be available in the absence of a better article.

We wrote we had not received the 9 bbs flour—dont let your people be alarmed flour enough for us all a good deal here—and new soon be in.

Very quiet here—we have a vessel in today from Charleston via canal and Hatteras inlet with a cargo Rice and is the only arrival from sea for three weeks. She escaped in time for they now have an armed vessel stationed there.

The South will save in money that is squandered in the North half enough to pay our campaign expences.

[P. S.] We sent some days ago the Tea and oil as pr. our letter. Will you please collect for us the two enclosed drafts on W. F. Vestal \$102.44. Albright and Bason 88.58 You can if you require any funds here draw on us notwithstanding you have these in hand. Should they not be paid please write us.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH May 15—1861.—

I suppose I am elected to the Convention from Hertford. When I left there on Tuesday morning, I had heard from only two of the five

precincts in the county. At these two precincts I received nearly all the votes polled—and as there was no regular opposition, I presume there is hardly a doubt of my election.

Are you elected in Alamance? I heard to-day that you *were*. I hope sincerely it is true. If you are elected, I want you to stay with me, whilst attending as a delegate. In the first place, on my own account, I want to have you here with me. And on your own account, I am confident you will be more comfortable with me than at a crowded and noisy hotel.—I dare say, our friend Gov. Manly will be desirous of having you with him; but that is too long and tiresome a walk for you in the warm weather before us. I assure you need not fear that you will give us any trouble—it will afford us a great pleasure to have you with us.—

My wife joins me in urging you to come *directly* to our house. If you will let me know when you will be here, I will send my carriage to meet you at the Depot. You ought by all means to come down *immediately*. There ought to be some consultation and preparation of the ordinances of secession before Monday. Do come right down, I want to talk to you about a great many things.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

GARYSBURG May 20th/61.

I have but a moment to write, and you must pardon me, therefore, for coming at once to the point.

We are pleasantly situated here, and have found our associations agreeable, and are very anxious to continue them as long as possible.

Cpts Scales, ¹ Settle, ² Hyman ³ and myself are anxious to be thrown into the same regiment, for *many* reasons, but most particularly because we all agree that, in the election, of our superior officers, we will be governed *purely* by considerations of fitness.

From some intimations received here we fear that Capt. Hyman's "The Edgecombe Rifles" may not be appointed to the 3d Regiment, in which, we hear, that the other three companies are to go.

My purpose in writing, therefore, is to beg you, in case you deem it proper to do so, to see Gov. Ellis and represent our wishes to him.

¹ Alfred M. Scales, of Rockingham, captain of Company H of the Thirteenth, succeeded Pender in October, 1861, as colonel. He was promoted to brigadier-general in 1863.

² Thomas Settle, of Rockingham, captain of Company I.

³ Joseph H. Hyman, of Edgecombe, captain of Company G, was promoted to major in 1862, lieutenant colonel in the same year, and colonel in 1863, succeeding Scales.

It certainly would be unjust to Capt Hyman to detain him here and send others of us forward, as he was here before any of us, and has a company, in no way, inferior to any here.

He and his officers are strict disciplinarians and have won, for themselves, the commendation of Col. Pender.

We hear that Gov. Ellis is under the impression that Capt Hyman's Company is a part of the old Edgecombe Company, which behaved so badly. Whereas there is not a man in it that was a member of the old Company and the Capt was induced to raise his company, at great costs to himself, that he might repair as far as possible, the damage wrought by the misconduct of the former company.

Please see the Governor and use your best efforts to accomplish the object which we so much desire.

We are all well.

I earnestly hope you will not overwork yourself in the convention.

[Address: Raleigh N. Carolina.]

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr., and others.

TELEGRAM.

Received at Raleigh N. C. May 23rd 1861

By telegraph from Weldon, N. C.

*To Judge Ruffin Gov. Reid
Judge Howard W. S. Battle
and Hon. A. M. Scales.*

Captains Ruffin Graves¹ Hyman Scales and Settle wish to be in Same Regiment. If we cannot conveniently go into third by all means drop back to fourth we telegraph after full consultation. do all you can with Governor and Adj't General to make arrangements answer immediately.

CAPTS. RUFFIN GRAVES SCALES HYMAN AND SETTLE.

From Alfred M. Scales.

May 24th 1861.

Will you pardon me for again taxing your kindness and asking that you will see the Gov. and Gen. Hoke and request them to make no changes in the order already issued for the formation of the 3d Regi-

¹ John A. Graves, of Caswell, captain of Company A, later major of the Forty-seventh North Carolina.

ment. I learn this evening that an effort will be made to have some of the companies stricken out and others substituted and I must confess from the want of system somewhere, the lack of reason or purpose in many things done to say nothing of the fact that in the 2nd Regiment changes were made even after the first election I think there is great reason to fear the result of any effort made to effect a change. We are all satisfied as it is and I am happy to say that Col. Pender has signified his intention to accept the command of our regiment if tendered to him. Let me therefore beg that you Gov. Reid etc. will see to it that no alteration is made. For fear that there is no record of the order and the companies embraced in it which I brought down I have on the next page given you a list of the companies, all of which were read to us this evening. Please dont let them be disturbed Ruffin Settle Hyman join me in this request. Thomas will telegraph you in the morning for fear that this may not reach you in time. Settle will also write to Gov. Reid. If the Departments at Raleigh desire to forfeit the respect and confidence of the volunteers I am sure there is no better way of doing than to be forever undoing one day what they have done before. The following according to the orders brought down by me and read this evening are the companies which compose the 3d Regiment.

1. Yanceyville Grays	6. Davie Grays
Capt. Graves	Capt. Clement ⁴
2. Randlesburg Rifles	7. Edgecombe Rifles
Capt. Erwin. ¹	Capt. Hyman
3. Milton Blues	8. Rockingham Guards
Capt. Mitchell. ²	Capt. Scales
4. Leasburg Grays	9. Rockingham Rangers
Capt. Hambrick. ³	Capt. Settle
5. Alamance Regulators	10. Dixie Boys
Capt. Ruffin	Capt. Baily, ⁵ from Rockingham also.

I have no personal objection to any gentleman who may apply to get in nor do I know any to their companies. But there are certain companies we want together and we have made arrangements all of which may be overturned if a change takes place now so let them stand to what they have done and form another regiment for these other gentlemen. I say to you in *confidence* that it important in the selection of our first officer that things *remain* as they are.

¹ A. A. Erwin, of Mecklenburg, captain of Company B.

² James T. Mitchell, of Caswell, captain of Company C.

³ John T. Hambrick, of Caswell, captain of Company D. He became major in 1862.

⁴ Jesse A. Clement, of Davie, captain of Company F.

⁵ G. Pink Baily, of Rockingham, captain of Company K.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Received at Raleigh May 25th 1861

By telegraph from Weldon " " to Judge Ruffin

See the Gov and Mr Hoke at once and prevent any changing in third Regiment parties have gone to get it changed prevent if possible See Gov Reid and Judge Howard. Reply at once.

T. RUFFIN, JR.

From Kenneth Rayner.

May 25—1861.

I feel unwilling to move for the appointment of a Committee of "Ways and Means"—for the reason that I have already made myself more prominent in the business of the Convention, than I desired to have been. If I were to move their raising the committee, it would be regarded as *a bid* on my part for the chairmanship of the committee, and I desire no notoriety here, whilst I am willing to be useful, as far as I am able.

Inasmuch as I opened the discussion yesterday, which led to the appointment of the military committee announced this morning—and inasmuch as I took a prominent part in the debate, I had a right to expect that I would be placed on that committee. But it seems, that for *certain reasons* it was thought I was not a proper person to be put there; I do not wish to seem to *bolster* up myself against this intimation of my unfitness, by managing to have myself placed at the head of another important committee.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From Augustine H. Shepperd.

GOOD SPRING May 26 1861

As I do not know the address of Lieut Murphy I take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter that I am very desirous he should receive as soon as possible—Hope you may be able to give it the proper direction. I often hear from Mr. Pender in charge of the volunteers at Weldon or Garysburg and among the compliments handed out to his Officers, notice with pleasure the marked distinction of your worthy son. I am pained to have to write to Mr. P. the extreme illness of his only child. His wife Fanny (who takes great pleasure in recollecting you and your daughter Mrs. Rohlack, is staying with me.

From Quentin Busbee.

RALEIGH N. C.—27th May—1861.

*Hon. Thos. Ruffin,
Chairman, etc.
Sir:*

Owing to duties which may call me from this place for an indefinite period, I am under the necessity of resigning my post as Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

The Books, directed to be kept by the Secretary, the Board will find written up, and deposited in the office of the Public Treasurer.

Very respectfully,

Your ob'dt Servant,

QUENTIN BUSBEE.

From Rufus Y. McAden.

GRAHAM N C

June 5th 1861

We are making the coats for the Volunteers. We want Military buttons. Can you get them from the Quarter Master or buy them in Raleigh? if so please have them sent by Express. We want One thousand buttons. We are unable to procure blankets for our boys. Capt Stockards Company is now at Garysburg without blankets Can the Quarter Master furnish the Company?

To Ward and Company.

RALEIGH, N. C. June 6th, 1861.

Gentlemen:

The troubles of the times prevent Express Companies from bringing effects from your part of the Country to mine; and therefore I am compelled to avail myself of the good offices of a friend to obtain from you the North Carolina 6 pr: Ct: Bonds, which you purchased for me. I doubt not their security in your hands, but it is impossible to anticipate the casualties which may put the Bonds in peril; and, at all events, as the interest cannot be paid in New York at present, and provision has been made by law for its payment here, it is most convenient to have the Bonds here. I will, therefore, thank you to deliver the Bonds to

my friend *George Washington Esqr.*, who will deliver you this. He has been kind enough to undertake the charge of them, and his receipt shall be your acquittance. To obviate, however, the mischiefs which violence or accident might produce, you will oblige me by making out Duplicate lists of the Bonds, designating them by the dates, numbers and sums—one of which you will be pleased to keep for me, and the other deliver to Mr. Washington. In a former letter I requested you to deposit the July Coupons in the Fulton Bank to my credit; but in the changed State of things, I hope *that* has not been done. If it has oblige me by getting a copy of my account in Fulton Bank, and send it, as well as your own account, by Mr. Washington. As I write without having access to your letters, which are at home, I do not know how our accounts stand: If the balance be in my favor, you may pay it over to Mr. Washington; if against me, I wish you would take coupons to the amount, and, if that should not suit you, Mr. Washington will pay it, should he have the funds to spare. At all events, it cannot be much either way; and, if I am in debt, it shall certainly be paid.

My mind is full of sad reflections on the state of affairs; but in present circumstances, it seems improper to give any expression to them.

I offer my thanks for your prompt and faithful attention to my business; and also, tender to my old friend, Mr. Gifford, the cordial regards of his and

Your friend

Messrs. Ward and Co.
Wall Street,
New York.

THOMAS RUFFIN.¹

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL 7 June 1861.

I expect to be in Raleigh early next week and spend a day or two before setting out on a journey to Georgia and Tennessee, which will probably occupy the remainder of our summer vacation. I give you this notice, in order that you may be advised when it will and when it will not, be in my power to attend a meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

At our last interview, I had occasion to express my regret that the prohibition on the States "to emit bills of credit" copied from the Federal, in the provisional had not been retained in the permanent Constitution of the Confederate States. I am aware that the value of the provision had been greatly impaired, by the mischievous construction and the case of *Craig v. the State of Missouri*, by which a State in the guise of a Bank was enabled to do in substance, what was forbidden

¹ Signed by Ruffin but not written by him.

in name. The evil produced in this way however was small when compared with direct emission by the States of paper money. For the purpose of illustrating our own history in relation to this subject, I send herewith an unfinished and not very accurately printed article designed to have been the leader in the May number of the University, which the difficulties of the times have compelled the societies to suspend for the present.

It seems to me that the Convention, ought to do now, what the Convention of 1835 failed to do, under the limitations imposed in the law, under which it convened—re-write, the instrument out and out—omit obsolete sections, and as is done, in the permanent Constitution of the Confederate States, incorporate the amendments, as an integral portion of the framework. I was in favour of doing so then, and think the reasons stronger now than then. Allow me to suggest to you and through you to President Edwards, the propriety of limiting the power of the General Assembly, in the creation of public debt, and the prohibition of bills of credit, directly and indirectly. I believe that the Bank of the State of S. C. is the only survivor of the score of such institutions called into existence thirty years ago, and this is the only instance, if it be one, (which I doubt) in which the result, if not absolute bankruptcy was not most mischievous.

I send two copies of the article referred to, please give one to our friend Mr. Edwards.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, and other discouragements, we had a very pleasant, if not a brilliant commencement.

Judge Ruffin.

[Address:

(In the Convention)

Judge Battle, Raleigh N. C.

From Thomas J. Bright to John W. Ellis.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY N. CAROLINA June 10th 1861.

Mr. John W. Ellis—Governor of the State of N. Carolina.

Sir—Your Excellency will permit me to introduce to your acquaintance the bearer Thomas T. Eckert.¹

¹ Thomas Thompson Eckert, 1825-1910, a native of Ohio, who, after some years of service in telegraph construction, had come to North Carolina in 1859 as superintendent of a gold mine in Montgomery County. He returned North, became superintendent of all military telegraph lines, was promoted to brigadier-general, and was assistant secretary of war from 1864 to 1865. After the war he was president of several important telegraph companies, and upon the formation of the Western Union became its general manager, and later its president.

He has been a citizen of this county for upwards of Twelve months and by his acts and general deportment has proven himself to be a gentleman worthy of respect and deserving protection.

He is the superintendent of the Baltimore and Montgomery Gold-mine and leaves us on the private business of said mine for the Company in Baltimore. He leaves with us his very interesting family consisting of a wife 3 children and sister-in-law. He resides within one mile of my house, has contributed liberally to the support of our volunteers No. 1 from this county in which company I have a son.

I take pleasure in making these Statements, And hope your excellency will have him furnished with such papers as will enable him to pass unmolested and safely through our lines.

Yours very respectfully,

THOMAS J. BRIGHT.

From John A. Gilmer.

IN CONVENTION

RALEIGH N. C.

June 12th, 1861.

I am acquainted with the bearer hereof Dr. John W. McCay. His residence is Baltimore, Md. He is the President of a Mining Company called the Guilford Mining Company and of another called the North State. These mines are located in my county Guilford—and are under the superintendence of Dr. McCay, who has been some with us in attending to the business of said Companies. He desires to return on business to Baltimore. He is loyal Citizen, and is in all things a gentleman. He expects to have in charge two ladies of high character, Mrs. Hatch, and Miss Kesley. Mrs. Hatch has been to Greensboro to visit some relatives and desires to return to her home in New England. Miss Kesley has been teaching at Jamestown in Guilford County, and desires to return to her home in Washington City.

Any civilities or aid that may extended to Dr. McCay, will much gratify [me] and gratify many respectable citizens in my section of N. C. whose friendship and esteem his good conduct and gentlemanly deportment have secured.

JOHN A. GILMER.

I fully concur in the above statement. ROBT. P. DICK.

[Endorsed: Miss L. S. Kesley formerly of Washn D. C. Mother now residing at Bladensburg Md.]

From Rufus Y. McAden.

GRAHAM N C

June 12th 1861

The Hawfield Company (the Company that joined Fishers Regiment,) Say that we must furnish them uniforms, in Sending our orders for cloth we did not include this Company, we have written to Messrs Young Winston and Orr the firm from which we bought our cloth to furnish us cloth. I Send this letter to you. You will confer a favor by seeing Col Branch and get him to send us an order for One thousand yards of Cadet cloth for coats. We must have the cloth as our uniform is partly finished and we want the same cloth.

From S. H. Christian and others.

IN CONVENTION AT
RALEIGH, N. C.

June 19, 1861.

I take the liberty of saying that I am well acquainted with the bearer Mr. Thomas T. Eckert, who has been working in my county of Montgomery for the last two years. He desires to visit Baltimore, his former residence and return to his family. He is a loyal citizen and a true man.

Any civilities or aid that may be shown to him, will much oblige and gratify the many good citizens in my section of the State, whose friendship his modesty and good conduct have secured to him.

S. H. CHRISTIAN.

I am not personally acquainted with Mr. Thomas T. Eckert but I am well acquainted with Saml H. Christian Esq. a delegate in our convention from the county of Montgomery, and I have full confidence in all of his foregoing statements.

JOHN A. GILMER.

June 19th, 1861/

I am well acquainted with Saml. H. Christian, who is a delegate in this convention with myself, and have full confidence in every statement he would make.

W. J. LONG *Mem of Con*

From John A. Gilmer to John Letcher.

RALEIGH N. C.

June 19, 1861.

His Excellency

John Letcher

Gov. etc., of Va.

D. Sir

Please see the statement of Samuel H. Christian Esq. a delegate in our Convention, in behalf of Mr. Thos. T. Eckert. Please give Mr. Eckert passes that will take him safely to Baltimore, and oblige.

Yours truly,

JOHN A. GILMER.

From L. P. Walker.¹

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,

WAR DEPARTMENT,

RICHMOND, June 23, 1861.

Hon. Messrs. Graham and Ruffin,

Commissioners from North Carolina:

Gentlemen: I herewith transmit to you the acts passed by the Provisional Congress at its first and second sessions, and in relation to the conversation between us had on yesterday deem it proper to say that by reference to the act "to provide for the public defense," and the emendation to that act, you will find the law regulating and controlling the organization and service of the provisional forces of the Confederate States. It will be seen that volunteers have the same organization and the same pay and allowances provided for the Regular Army, and are received and mustered into service by "companies, squadrons, battalions, and regiments," only. When thus organized, according to the act "for the establishment and organization of the Army of the Confederate States of America," they uniformly are accepted with the company and field officers selected by themselves. It is quite apparent this Department cannot receive under the law a higher military organization than that of a regiment, and it has always claimed and exercised the right to make all staff appointments, reconciling, in this respect, as far as practicable, the preferences of the volunteers with

¹ Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series IV, Vol. I, p. 396.

the interests of the service. Brigades are organized and general officers appointed by the authorities here. The Congress wisely confiding both the one and the other to the military experience of the President, and the reservation of staff appointments to the War Department was essentially necessary to the harmonious administration of the Commissariat, Quartermaster, and Surgical Bureau, operating throughout a field so extensive and ramified as that now existing.

Some of the States, before joining their fortunes to those of the Confederacy, found it necessary to make independent military preparations and raise troops under their own laws. These troops have been generally passed under Confederate authorities through agreements between their respective States and the Confederate Government. In view of the controlling necessity of the case and to avoid confusion the Confederate Government may, perhaps, in this manner have taken into its service troops not thoroughly organized according to the requirements of Congress, but in no instance has the Confederate Government stipulated to receive from the State a brigade as such, or a general officer, or yielded to a diminution of its power to regulate staff appointments at will. The organization of the Regular Army provided for at the first session of the Congress has been entirely suspended for the present in view of the public necessities and the immediate demand for large forces in the field, only to be supplied through volunteers. This Department has been enabled the more readily to take this step in consequence of the law passed at the second session of Congress, in order to meet the proclamation issuing from the Government at Washington calling for enrollments for three years and enlistments for the war. By this law the President was authorized to receive volunteers for the war. Thousands have been so tendered, and by the fall the chief bulk of the Army now in the field from the original States composing the Confederacy will stand on the same basis as regulars. An enormous expense has been thus saved to the Government, at the same time that the effectiveness of the service, through the suspension of the organization of the Regular Army, has in no manner been diminished.

It is understood here that North Carolina has organized ten regiments for the war, to be passed under Confederate authorities, and it gives me pleasure to say that these regiments will be mustered into the service and received into the pay of this Department at the earliest moment after notification from Governor Ellis of their actual organic formation. But concerning the fact mentioned by you, that a number of volunteers in addition to the ten regiments reported for the war are being raised in North Carolina, it is proper for me to state that the President, under the laws of Congress authorizing him to make requisitions upon the States, will call for these troops from time to time as the public exigencies may demand. He now more especially desires to embody in the different States a reserve army corps, to be placed in

camp of instruction and thoroughly prepared as regulars to meet the casualties of the battle-field and a possible reverse of arms. To this end these forces will be enrolled for the war, will be received by companies, and as thus mustered into service will be paid and subsisted by this Department. The numbers necessary for the entire corps will be determined upon and the quota of North Carolina made known to Governor Ellis in the course of a few days.

This Department would not arrogate to itself to suggest unasked what course North Carolina should pursue in the transfer of the forts and arsenals within her limits, but as the Commissioners have done me the honor to request an expression of opinion on the subject, I do not feel at liberty to decline their solicitation. Such jurisdiction over the forts and arsenals should be ceded to the Confederate Government as would clothe it with the power fully to execute the objects of the transfer. The particular form in which this shall be done, this Department will not presume to indicate. This form has varied in the different States, the transfer in some of them being absolute or without limitation, while in others the ultimate fee has been reserved, together with the right to resume jurisdiction whenever, in the opinion of the State making the cession, the power transferred should be unjustly used. I would furnish copies of these transfers, but they are not upon the files of the Department. The subject is one of vast moment, and the despotism exercised by the Government at Washington over the forts and arsenals ceded to the United States in derogation of the trust reposed in its authorities is patent on the face of events. It will be for the wisdom of your statesmen so to word the instrument of transfer as to reconcile the fundamental doctrine of State rights set forth in the Constitution with the imperative requirements of our present military operations against an insolent and audacious foe and the exacting purposes of the general defense hereafter.

I have the honor to be, with high consideration and respect,
L. P. WALKER,
Secretary of War.

From Peter W. Hairston.

THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

Received at Raleigh June 24th 1861 at 12 o'clock, 41 minutes.

By telegraph from Richmond " " To Judge Ruffin

If I raise a Cavalry Company—Will they be accepted by North Carolina and I given command.

PETER W. HAIRSTON
Spotswood House

*From L. P. Walker.*¹

RICHMOND, June 25, 1861.

Governor Graham and Judge Ruffin,

Raleigh, N. C.:

The President directs me to say that if the volunteers are for twelve months he will accept 2,000. Beyond this number he cannot go. A reserve corps for the war of 3,000 men will be called for from your State in a day or two, to go into camp of instruction, and to be accepted by companies. This arrangement will probably absorb what is left of your volunteer organization. For other points I refer you to my letter of the twenty-third instant.

L. P. WALKER.

*From Thomas R. Roulhac.*²

HILLSBORO

July 1st 1861

My dear Grandfather

Sir

Maj. Lightfoot requested me to go to the shops with him to day as drill master as Mother had no objection and I did not think you would object, I accepted and will stay with him until the Regiment leaves. I am very desirous of rendering to my State what little service I am capable of.

You have seen Col Tew's recommendation and as Maj Lightfoot seems to agree with him about my being able to be a drill master I will try to do my duty to the best of my ability. Love to all

Your Grandson

T. R. ROULHAC

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, July 5, 1861.

Genl. Gwynn called to see me today; and he seems to be somewhat embarrassed as to the course self-respect requires him to pursue. He says, if he could be assured, that President Davis intends to vacate the

¹ Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series LV, Vol. I, p. 401.

² Thomas Ruffin Roulhac, the son of Joseph B. G. Roulhac and Catharine Ruffin Roulhac, at this time a student in the Hillsboro Military Academy. He later ran away and enlisted in the Forty-ninth North Carolina, and rose to the rank of lieutenant before he was captured and sent to Johnson's Island. After the war he settled in Alabama where he was judge of the circuit court of the State and United States district attorney.

appointments of "*General*" made by Gov. Ellis without recommissioning him, he would forthwith resign. He says he shall remain here in Raleigh until he can learn something definite in regard to the course to be pursued by Prest. Davis.

He requested me to write to you tonight and to say to you that he will thank you, if you will *immediately* write to Gov. Ellis (who is at the "Red Sulphur Springs") and request him to mention his case to President Davis, and obtain his reappointment by the latter or otherwise retain him in the State service if State troops are to be kept up. It is understood that Gov. Ellis is to return very shortly, through Richmond, where he will have an interview with President Davis, touching on military affairs in this State.

Gen. Gwynn seems to be pleased with his present duties—that of supervising the arrangement for our coast defence; and as he is acquainted with our coast and the requirements necessary for its defence I doubt whether we could get any man who would be likely to discharge the duty so well, or give such satisfaction to our people, who know him well. He wishes to be relieved from his present state of uncertainty and doubt.

In serving Gen. Gwynn, to do which I doubt not you are anxious, I suggest whether you had not better write to President Davis, as well as to Gov. Ellis.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance Co. No. Ca.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—July 9th—1861.

Yours of the 6th inclosing your letter to President Davis, reached me this morning.

I have just enclosed and directed it to Presdt. Davis, at Richmond. After reading it carefully, I can see no sort of objection to your letter to the President. It goes into detail, as it ought to do, to enable him to understand the whole question. It is modestly, and at the same time earnestly expressed. I hope and believe it will do good. Genl. Gwynn is still here. He came up Sunday, and eat a family dinner with us. I can not believe but Davis will reappoint him unless he has some special objection to him.

Poor Ellis! I suppose you have heard of his death. He died on Saturday last. I learn his remains will probably reach here this evening.

I notice that in the late skirmishes the South has fared badly. The death of Capt. Ashby is quite a loss. He was a gallant and noble fel-

low. I met him at "Point of Rocks," as I came on from the North and was much pleased with him. The death of Col. Drew¹ of Louisiana is perhaps a still greater loss. He is said to have been a young man of great promise, both as a soldier and a lawyer of the New Orleans bar. I am still of opinion that we ought to *fight them—fight them* and continue to fight them.

Nothing new here. The weather is very hot. The seasons are fine and the promise for fine crops very encouraging.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance Co. N. C.

From Edward Lee Winslow.

MORGANTON, July 10, 1861

I Certify that Thos Ruffin, Hon W. H. Battle, and Richard Smith are elected delegates from North Carolina, to the meeting in Columbia, S. C. on the 3d Wednesday in October 1861.

EDWD LEE WINSLOW,
Secy etc. of the Meeting.

P. T. O.

Messrs. A. J. De Rossett, S. F. Patterson, John H Bryan, are the alternat delegates, in the order, as named who, will be notified, accordingly, if any of the original delegates can not attend,

E. L. W. *Secy.*

July 10/1861

From Thomas R. Roulhac.

HILLSBORO N. C.

July 11th, 1861

Dear Grandpa

I hate very much to bother you again about this matter but I understand the State has made another call for drill masters and I would like to render some service to her, I do not flatter myself by saying I could make as good a drill master as any one but I think I can drill recruits so as to make them fit for active service and Col Tew seems to think so for he gave me he said, as good a recommendation as he could give to any one. Col Wm. Kirkland has requested me to go with him to Danville, also one of my former Profs. Capt. Richardson now Maj. in the

¹ Charles Dreux.

same Reg with Col. Kirkland. I would rather go with them, if you see fit for me to go, as it would be more pleasant and also a very healthy place.

Cousin William has promised to get me a place, if you allow me to go,
With great love and respect I remain your Grandson,

T. R. ROULHAC.

From James G. Moore.

COMPANY'S SHOPS July 13th 1861.

Dear Sir.

I drop you a line in Haste to inform you of the result of Meeting of Stock Holders for N. C. R. R.

Mr. Cameron is President of the Road.

Mr. Mebane

Mr. Phipper ¹

Mr. Webb

Mr. McCray ²

Directors on part Stockholders.

The State Directors same as before except Mr. Gorrell in place of R. P. Dick. I think the Road has made a wise selection in Mr. Cameron and time will show it.

I am coming to see you before long—yours Truly

JAMES G. MOORE.

[Endorsed: No War News.]

From Jefferson Davis.

RICHMOND, VA.

July 17, 1861.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, P. O. N. C.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 6th inst., particularly in relation to Gen'l Walter Gwinn and the military organization in N. C. generally, has been received and referred to the respectful consideration of the Secretary of War.

Very respectfully
and truly your's

JEFFN. DAVIS.

[Address: Graham P. O. N. C.]

¹ Phifer.

² McRae.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH July 18th 1861.

Your favor has been received and carefully read. I called this morning to see Gov. Clark,¹ but found company with him, and therefore had but little opportunity of conversing with him. I know very little of how he is "getting along"—having seen but little of him since he became Governor. In fact I rarely go *down town*; being occupied sufficiently with my little domestic affairs. I requested Gov. Clark to read your letter, and left it with him. I fully agree with you, that our militia system should be thoroughly reorganized, and brought to some efficiency so as to be made effectual, in case of necessity. But as to a *levy en masse* of all our able-bodied men between 18 and 45 unless in case of actual invasion, I doubt the propriety of it. It would leave the country in too defenceless a condition—and besides, it would disorganize and derange all the industrial pursuits of our laboring white population. It would, I fear, be misunderstood at the north, and enspirit our enemies with the idea that our people are not willing to volunteer and that we have to resort to compulsion to get our men in the field, of course, if we are actually invaded, the case will be very different. Necessity will then override every other consideration. I notice that the newspapers in Virginia, of all parties are inveighing against the Governor's proclamation.

On yesterday, there arrived here under a guard, some 35 or 40 prisoners from Virginia taken in the various skirmishes there. It was said they were to be sent to "The shops" in your county for safe keeping. What is the *rationale* of sending them here I don't and Can't understand. Gov. Clarke told me this morning that he had received no official instruction, as to what he was to do with them, or where to place them; and that for the present, till he could learn something definite, he had sent them to the fairgrounds, and had detailed a number of men to guard them. The officers, I have heard, were on their *parole* of honor. Among these prisoners is a Lieut. Col. Bowman² of Pennsylvania, whom Mr. Barringer informed me he had conversed with; and that he (Col. Bowman) told him the people of the north had no conception of the State of things here in the South—that they (the northern people) supposed the men greatly divided in opinion, and that they did not suppose there was any such unanimity as he found prevailing here.

Our crops have continued to improve, but now, we are having too much rain. I learn that crops all through the Eastern part of the State

¹ Henry Toole Clark, of Edgecombe, speaker of the Senate, had succeeded Governor Ellis.

² There was no lieutenant colonel named Bowman in the United States Army at this time. This was probably Samuel M. Bowman, who was soon thereafter promoted to that rank.

are as promising as they can be. I propose going down to Hertford on Tuesday next.

The talk is—and I suppose it is true—that Gov. Clark has appointed ex Gov Bragg and Hon. D. M. Barringer his “*aids*”—and that they occupy the position of “*advising councillors*” and that they are with him transacting business every day. I found them both with him today. Winslow, I learn, is in Richmond. I rather expect, though I don’t *know* it, that Clarke has “given him the cold-shoulder,” and that these “*Cabinet aids*” have been appointed for the purpose of reducing to a nullity, the “Military Board.”

My *Hungarian Grass* is all headed out. When ought it to be cut, if intended for hay?

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Alamance Co. No. C.

From William A. Graham.

HILLSBORO, July 23rd, 1861.

Yours of the 20th inst. I find at home on my return this morning from the Catawba.

In reply to your inquiry, I have the pleasure to say that my son Wm. informs me that a letter has recently been received by Mr. T. C. Washington from his brother George at New York, stating in substance that he was awaiting advices from Louisville Ky. as to the safe transit of shipments, made through that point, before making further consignments thither. We are not informed that this letter appoints any certain time for his return, but I have no doubt, he lingers merely for mercantile objects, and will effect his return in a few weeks.

I am gratified to hear of your restoration to health, and congratulate you on the recent glorious success of our arms, all saddened as it is, by the sacrifice of so many gallant soldiers.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From F. S. Stagg to Paul C. Cameron.

DURHAMS STATION

July 25, 1861.

Mr. P. C. C.

We through Mr McMann and J. C. McCown Learn that none Orange Grays killed, Capt Freeland slightly wounded but able to do duty Col Lightfoot wounded but able to do duty—three or four Capt Webb Company wounded only one that is Serious thought he will get well (Wm Mangum) the Letter was Recd. through Adams Ex. to Raleigh

and to us by Ex. train this evening the information was gained in Richmond by Mr. McMann he obtaining it from Rev. Inness P. Moore who was at Manassas at the fight—and Left afterwards and I supposed it of course *reliable*—oh what a victory—now our friends are retired and rejoice oh how it grieves me that Col Fisher is not there to enjoy it—when God is for us, who can be against us to do us damage.

Truly yours

F. S. STAGG.

From Bartholomew F. Moore.

RALEIGH July 26/61.

I must ask the favor of your views upon the powers of the Board of Claims in regard to the taking of evidence through justices of the peace, Commissioners etc. The expression giving special power in the Ordinance is, “they shall be authorized to administer oaths and to require affidavits to be made, when necessary”—

Has the Board a right to submit interrogatives to be answered at a distance before a justice of the peace or other officer empowered generally to administer oaths? If they have not such power, can one of the board take an affidavit. If the Board is not authorized to do so, nor any member of it, are they censurable for resorting to distant affidavits before justices of the peace, as a discreet means to investigate truths.

I state the matter without expressing any opinion. Please let me have, for the use of the Board, your views. State what you would do as a member of the Board, and you will confer a great favor on each of its members. We move slowly as may be conjectured from the novelty of our position.

We seem to have jurisdiction of *all* matters of equipment before 20 May and of such equipment etc. since that day where no other department has jurisdiction. It is difficult often to determine whether Q. Master, Commissary, Military Board, or Ordnance department or Governor has jurisdiction, and of course to determine our own. I have never been so embarrassed. I will not trouble you with anything beyond the question of taking affidavits through others, etc.

From Jeremiah Holt.

ALAMANCE July the 28th 1861.

I am informed by my Boy Thomas that he wants your Negro girl Emily for a wife if it is agreeable with you and wants a recommendation. I can say that Thomas is a boy of good character sober and honest as far as I no of and is permitted to pass and repass to your house and home monday morning on good behaviour.

From Edward Lee Winslow.

FAYETTEVILLE, Aug 1. 1861

My dear Sir

Will you find enclosed a certificate of delegation to the meeting at Columbia, S. C. Mess. W. H. Battle and R. H. Smith, are the delegates with you,

Messrs A. J. DeRossett
 S. F. Patterson
 Jno H. Bryan.

are the alternate delegates, in the order as named.

Yours truly,

EDWD. LEE WINSLOW.

From Patrick H. Winston, Jr.

RALEIGH 4 Aug. 1861.

I think it not improper to place before you a matter which will probably interest you. I will remark in the outset that I shall not expect you to take the trouble to reply as the subject would require a longer letter than I would be willing to tax you with.

In the Bills chartering the Atlantic and N.C. Road and rechartering the R. and Gaston Road (and others perhaps) it is provided that the Roads in case of "domestic invasion or insurrection" shall transport the troops munitions etc. free of charge.

The Roads charge for transportation in the present war and contend that the present is not a case included in the terms of the charter.

However the foregoing may be I think the Raleigh and Gaston Road has taken a wrong step.

They have themselves not only settled the matter that they are entitled to charge but they have decided to take their pay out of the States dividend.

I am not familiar with the management of these State matters but it occurs to me that such a step by the Road is rather ungracious. The sinking fund may all be voted to pay the soldiers or our coupons. It may be and I hear is now needed to meet the daily wants of the Treasury.

Is the R. and G. Road any more justified in retaining the States money than another Road would be in asserting a lien on our guns powder etc.

Suppose the State should have to pay the Roads in her bonds. Should not all the Roads fare alike.

I have made known to Mr. Moore that I should call the attention of the Manager of the Sinking fund to this matter and likewise members of the Legislature. He states that being a stockholder in the Road he will take no part either way. Mr. Phillips has delivered no opinion on the matter.

I think that it is very questionable whether the Road is entitled to charge. I incline to think not. But if entitled I think she is acting badly to begin the game of distrust as she is doing.

Having a few spare moments I merely thought I would drop you the foregoing.

The Board of claims are obliged to you for that letter about administering oaths.

[Address: Graham Alamance Co. N. C.]

To Catherine Ruffin Roulhac.

ALAMANCE—Augt. 6th 1861.

As I promised you, I spoke to Colo. Campbell¹ yesterday about Thomas, and was informed by him, that he would be glad of his services and without delay. I told the Colo. I would write so that the letter would reach you this morning and Thomas might come up on the Express this afternoon. The Conductor will I doubt not, put him off at Graham Station; if not, he must walk back from the Shops. Colo. C. will be absent from Camp for three or four days; but during that time Lt. Colo. Haywood² will take charge of Thomas and assign his duty.

* * * * *

From John M. Morehead.

RICHMOND 8th Aug 1861.

Honl Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir

Your esteemed favor was duly rec'd. I have had two short conversations with the President on the subject of seeing our Troops—for it seems difficult to get a good sitting with the President so as to have

¹ Reuben P. Campbell, of Iredell, colonel of the Seventh North Carolina, which was then being organized at Camp Mason in Alamance County.

² Ed. Graham Haywood, of Wake.

a *consultation* with him). If I understood him correctly he is now willing to receive volunteers for any period of time, provided we will arm and equip them—as he says they find great difficulty to do it as fast as they tender their Services. But as he said he had fully advised the Governor on the subject, I deemed it useless to push the subject with more earnestness.

Since the great fight and victory at Manassas I think the Government has come to the conclusion, that it is not indispensable to a victory, that the troops should be regulars—on the contrary it may some times turn out, that it is better they are not and this perhaps happened at Manassas. For the opinion prevails with many, and even the enemy seemed so to have concluded from the dispatches in the earlier part of the day, that we, once or twice had fairly lost the battle, according to the usual rules of *regular fighting*—but our *green volunteer troops* were not up to their *regular* rules and when regulars might have concluded that they were fairly whipped and therefore ought to yield the day—the volunteers knew nothing about it—and only concluded when hard pressed and driven back that it was only marching and counter marching—and constituted nothing more than the regular emergencies of a battle field, and as they had gone in for whipping the enemy—it *had to be done*. And it was done gloriously done, by every man making himself a hero and fighting with a *valor* never surpassed any where. Every hero fought as if the Salvation of the Republic depended upon the vigor of his own right arm, and he determined to know nothing but *victory or death*. From the long continuance of the battle the irregularity of the ground rendered more unfavorable for the movements of large bodies of men by the forests and streams and the great length of the line of battle, long before the conclusion—the greatest disorder prevailed—men were thrown out of their regiments and even their companies, but it made but little difference—they saw the enemy before them, and they determined to conquer them without waiting to charge or fire by platoons, companies or regiments—but *each one pitched into his man hand to hand* and disposing of him, waited for no orders, but pitched into another and another until the enemy concluded they were fighting *Devils and not men* and the sooner they quit so unequal a contest the better, and hence the unprecedented panic. Regulars could have done no more.

The war Spirit possesses the whole land, and Congress in secret session all the time it transacts business, will respond to the public sentiment—this is perhaps as much as I ought to say *at this time*.

I have endeavored to disabuse the President's mind in reference to a friend of ours—but do not like the prospects. It is unnecessary to say that my whole efforts are enlisted in success.

We shall again start Monday week I think.

There is but little news or even conjecture. Every thing is kept dark—but as a flock of pigeons forages the forest by the rear continu-

ally flying to the front, so do our regiments keep moving gradually their camps, from rear to front in the direction of Alexandria and Arlington—and I am prepared to look for anything. Should the whole flock rise at once and cover the land towards Washington and Baltimore, the thunder of their wings (or of their flying artillery) may produce another stampede, that will satisfy all black Republicans that they have no business South of Mason and Dixons line in other words—Yankeeism will not flourish in the land of “*Dixie*.”

I regret exceedingly the sickness among our troops at Yorktown and Suffolk etc. Your son, Little and others have written us on the subject and we waited on the Secretary of War in a body on yesterday, reporting a removal—the President too has been approached on the subject—the secretary promised us an answer this morning—nearly half our men are sick—we must get them removed.

I regret exceedingly you are not with us in this Congress. We need you much. I hope you will be able to be at Raleigh during the opening session—We need all our prudent counsels.

Hoping that your health is improved, and that you may live to see your beloved South in peace prosperous and happy. I remain

Your obt
Srvt

J. M. MOREHEAD.

From Patrick H. Winston, Jr.

RALEIGH 8 Aug. 1861.

I took the liberty a day or two ago of writing you a letter. I again drop you a line remarking as before that I will not tax your time by requiring a reply.

On 26 April the different Southern R. R. presidents in Convention at Montgomery Ala unanimously adopted the following resolutions.

1. “That in view of the present condition of the Country and of the probability that the money at the command of the Government may be required for other purposes and particularly to provision and keep in the field the troops called for the defence of the Confederate States; the Companies represented in this Convention will receive in payment for the transportation of troops munitions and provisions over the several roads at par the Bonds or Treasury notes of the Confederate States whenever it is deemed necessary in the opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury to make payments in that manner.

2. That the Rail Road companies not represented in this Convention within the slave states be furnished with the resolution fixing the rate of compensation adopted yesterday and with the foregoing and that they are by

the Convention earnestly urged to adopt them. Resolved That the two foregoing resolutions in relation to the transportation of men provisions and munitions take effect on the first day of May next."

The resolution adopted "yesterday" referred to is as follows.

Resolved That the several Rail Road companies represented in Convention will transport troops and munitions upon the plan indicated by the Quarter Master General at the following rates (viz) Men two cents per mile, munitions Provisions and Material at half the regular local rates.

The foregoing resolutions as appears by the proceedings were all enacted after conference with the Confederate Government and after their adoption the result was communicated to that Govt.

In the Convention the N. C. Roads represented were

Central Fisher's by Wm. Johnson delegated by Fisher

Charlotte Johnson by Do. Do.

Western by A. M. Powell Prest.

N. & W. by W. S. Ashe Prest.

Manchester by Thos. D. Walker Prest.

The conclusion to which I come in the matter is that the Roads ought to go forward at once to the place of ultimate payt. Richmond.

Having some spare time I have thought that it might not be better spent than in simply stating the foregoing facts. If any of them are new you will know what use they should be put to.

[Address: Graham Alamance Co. N. C.]

From B. Hazell.

UNION RIDGE N. C.

Aug 9th 1861

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Sir you will please write to Capt. Thomas Ruffin and ask him to see Coll. Pender and know if my son Alfred and those Boys who left Manassa if they can have the priviledg of joining Capt. Thomas Ruffin comp. they are willing to join and serve in defence of their country if they can be permitted they have become allarmed and are unwilling to return to Manassa though my sone sais that it was an agreement with Col. Fisher that he was to return home at this time and as the fare was hard and under the excitement he left in a mad fit unthauted of the consequence though now willing to serve write to Thomas at once

And oblige yours etc.

B. HAZELL

By G. M. Hazell

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

CAMP RUFFIN August 16th/61.

I have just written Mama a letter in which I have given her the only piece of news, of which I am possessed—to wit that we are all well!

I write you, however, on a subject of interest to myself and my company and wish to enlist your services in my behalf. It is, however, in strict confidence.

Col. Pender has informed me, and only me, that a tender has been made to him, of the command of the 6th (Fishers) N. C. Regiment, and that he intended to accept it: When he does so, I feel, that this regiment has lost the only man, in it, who can render it an efficient one; and I fear that his successor will be a man wholly unfit for the place, and utterly incapable of discharging his duty to the regiment or the public.

Under these circumstances I am earnestly desirous to get out of the regiment, and to go, if possible, with Col. Pender. He expresses the same desire and says that there would be no difficulty about it, if it were not that my company is only a twelve months one: He has gone to Raleigh, partly to see if he cannot make some arrangement by which the thing can be accomplished.

May I not ask you to interest yourself in the matter also, and to go to Raleigh and see the authorities there on the subject.

I know that it is a difficult matter and can suggest no means or ways myself: At the same time I feel so anxious that I cannot but hope that you can, and will, arrange it in some way.

Col. Pender is a great man, and I would rather serve under him than any one in the world and when he quits us, I shall have lost my whole interest in the regiment, as I am fully convinced that we cannot get a successor at all up to the mark:

You will please mention to no one the fact that the Colonel proposes to quit us, as he has enjoined the strictest secrecy upon me: of course I do not mean that you shall not mention it to Uncle James as I know his prudence and the interest he takes in all that concerns me.

Please let me hear from you soon, for if anything be done it must be done quickly.

Will you be so good as to say to Uncle James that I think the note due Mr. Swepson, by one Dishough, must be in the book which he has, and that I wish he would take another search for it: I learn from Mr. Swepson that he could not find it.

From Bartholomew F. Moore.

RALEIGH Augt 17/61.

Pardon me for taxing you again, while I thank you most sincerely, as do the other members of the Board of Claims, for your excellent letter in reply to mine of the other day.

I want your advice to aid and assist me in the discharge of my duties in certain particulars.

1. Is a donor, having no purpose to charge for the thing donated at the time of its delivery, but afterwards repenting of it, yet showing no advantage taken of him, a *claim* within the meaning of the ordinance. Is there any principle of equity or justice, (The terms used in the ordinance as the basis on which the claim is to rest) which allows the Board to return his free donation?

2. In regard to county claims for equipping companies, it often happens that the claim presented is attended with these circumstances.

Before any movement by the county, individuals subscribe considerable sums on a list, the heading of which is a promise to pay "the officers of the company," or sometimes persons named, and sometimes not named, the several sums attached to their names respectively. Upon this list a third only of the sums subscribed is collected—then the County Court assemble and they resolve to endeavor to make the burthen of all—subscribers and non-subscribers,—equal; and to this end the court lays a tax to equip etc., and resolves that those who have paid anything towards their subscriptions shall have a certificate therefor which the shff. shall receive in full, or, as the case may be, *pro tanto* for their taxes—thereupon the subscriptions cease to be paid and the county proceeds to equip and presents her claim. Take this example—The whole equipt. cost \$3000—Of this, \$1000 is paid in by the subscribers before the action of the County Court and is used by the County with the other \$2,000 advanced by itself to make the equipment—Sometimes, indeed, the \$1,000 is applied toward equipping, *before* any action of the Court. The county presents a claim for the whole \$3000 and predicates its justice upon the fact that although the county has spent really and in cash but \$2000, yet it has assumed to refund, (and does so by release of taxes to that amt) the \$1000 paid by individuals, Quo-ne, what is to be done?

On the one hand it is maintained that as the \$1000 was a donation, complete and paid, and given to be expended in equipment the county court has no right to divert or recall its destination, because it is *ipso facto* devoted to a particular end, though it may not be actually spent, in whole, or even in part, that the donor himself could not directly divert or recall it, and, therefore, the county court cannot, for him—that if the county, through the court, choose to refund his donation, that is no reason why the state should reimburse the county for its

donation to the donor. Those, who maintain this, maintain also, that in case the subscriptions are not all paid at the time when the county court takes such action, and in consequence no more are paid, and the subscribers refuse or neglect to pay, the non paying subscribers are not bound to pay, and that the county cannot be held responsible for such unpaid donations, although they be not paid by reason of the action of the county court intended to produce that result. And so, the unpaid subscriptions cannot be counted as donations, though perfectly solvent. By way of illustration—In the county of A. \$2000 solvent subscriptions are made to equip a company—\$1000 are paid, and then the county court lays a tax to equip the company and directs that scrip on account and in consideration of the paid subscriptions be issued to those who have paid, for the amts respectively paid to be repaid by the county in the taxes of the donor. In such case the opinion of those, whose judgment I am now attempting to represent, is that the claim of the county (suppose it is to be \$4000 including the expenditures made with the \$1000 actually paid by subscribers) should be credited with \$1000 and not \$2000. And they offer as a further reason for their opinion that although it was beyond the power of the county court to recall or divert the paid donations, yet it was reasonable for that body, because of the very great difference in the liberality of the citizens of the several counties, as well as of the great disparity in the liberality of citizens of the same county, to devise a scheme for producing, eventually, an equality of burthen on all, according to the tax paying ability, which they say would be done by abrogating all donations, and refunding those actually paid. Still as the donations *paid* had been actually devoted and could not, therefore, upon any principle of “Equity” be recalled by the donor, these *must* come to the benefit of the State: They moreover admit that while noticing the donations to the company the county ought to be allowed credit for any luxury or superfluity purchased and used by the men, and that such articles as are not within the schedule of equipment and yet are customary for promoting the comfort of persons according to their habits, are fairly chargeable on the donations—holding, that if \$100 are donated, and \$10 thereof are expended in tobacco and pipes for the men, and \$20 in whiskey, and \$50 in music, and there be no complaint by the donors of a misapplication of their gifts, and no particular direction given to them as to the articles to be purchased or the comforts provided, the actual expenditure, if usual among the men, is conclusive of the purpose and intent of the donors. In such case they hold that if the whole donation does not more than cover the outlay for such extra enjoyments, no part thereof shall be carried to the actual equipments, and in case the donation should exceed such outlay that only the excess should be regarded as a donation toward *equipment*.

On the other hand it is argued that all donations are regarded, unless otherwise declared as having been made to the cause or country, and

therefore to be expended as will best advance the cause. That the designated equipments and not the application though uncomplained of are to be taken as the directions to and for what purpose the donations are to be devoted—that, although the subscriptions may not have been collected, yet the whole of them, or at least such part as is clearly solvent, ought to be deducted from the county claim; because the county court, by its action, has prevented the payment of the donations, which otherwise would have relieved the state of *Equipment* to the full amount of the list. That if the action of the county court ought to avail for any purpose, and especially the purpose to discharge unpaid subscriptions, it ought also avail to annul paid subscriptions and justify their return, as this sole effect would better secure equality of burthen on the citizens of the county than, an application of the collected money as donations and an allowance to the other subscribers to withhold their unpaid subscriptions.

Doubtless there is force in both views. But questions of difficulty arise and surround the subject.—1. If the donation is freely paid, in aid of the State, or to furnish superfluities for the men, can or ought the Board, on any principle of *Equity*, to return it to the donor himself, or to the county which interferes and reimburses the donor, and substitutes itself to his equity. He certainly would have none, because he cannot be a claimant for expenses incurred not intending to charge at the time of donating.

2. If the justices of the county in their conversation taking this matter into consideration, they being many of them, subscribers, shall deem it imprudent to pursue the scheme of voluntary and unequal subscriptions, and advise those who have not paid to refuse to pay, because an equal tax will later answer the end of justice, and the non paying subscribers shall come to the same conclusion with the justices, and therefore disdain to pursue the mode of raising money any further, is it right to charge the whole subscription on the county and make the *county* responsible and every citizen thereof, because the justices have, in their discretion provided a mode, which, in their judgment is more equitable than subscriptions, by individuals, It is known that some counties have been very liberal in their county equipments—others in their individual equipments—some having few or no private subscriptions; others large ones—half or one third paid and the residue cut off by the proposal of the county court to convert the whole into an equal tax by the mode stated. In some the amt. subscribed is to *organize* and *equip* volunteers and *support indigent families* without any other direction or division of the fund.

If the amt. actually paid is applied as a credit to the county claim, and the residue of the subscriptions is given up, because it cannot be enforced and the donor has a perfect right in equity and conscience to refuse to pay, because it was inconvenient or because it was leading to inequality of burthen, the course may rest on principles of equity, which

entertain no demand for a return of a free gift delivered and complete, and no demand to enforce a freely offered gift undelivered but withheld by reason of repentance or advice of friends.

If in such case the county will choose to refund that is a matter between the donor and the county.—This is strictly true unless the original gift can be considered as a gift to the *county*.

If the State has just cause of complaint against the county because by its action it has intercepted a bounty intended for the State and thereby has *injured* the State; and by its advice to its citizens not to give, but to be taxed to cause the necessary money, has unjustly deprived the State of a source of aid, then the county may be looked to for compensation; or rather the *justices*—for it may be that the county or the citizens thereof are wholly guiltless of the wrong.

I need not remind you that in many cases the justices themselves may have been the subscribers and may have resorted to this course to avoid payment; or that influential citizens—large subscribers—may have suggested the course to the justices and procured its adoption, nor that the course may have been adopted by the observation that many small tax payers were heavy subscribers—and many large tax payers had subscribed nothing.

I pray you to pardon this long essay and take a few days to give me your mature counsel for my guidance in this everlasting labyrinth of claims and demand upon the State, complicated with every species of subtle equity that ever bewildered a doubting chancellor.

P. S. I have been so much hurried (without any fault on my part) and written under so much fatigue that I fear I shall give you trouble to comprehend me. I have assiduously devoted about eight hours a day to the Board of Claims. This leaves me a small space of time for attention to my own extensive private and professional business. You must therefore pardon any inaccuracies of expression or obscurity of phrase.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

PRIVATE

POPLAR MOUNT 24th Aug. 1861.

I recd. last Wednesday a letter from Mr. Rayner, in which he stated, that there was a Bill before the Legislature “proposing to submit to a vote of the people of the State—whether the Convention shall not be abolished, and thus prevent its meeting in Novr.”—that it would pass, as he learnt, both Houses, and gave it as his opinion, that I should thereupon, by proclamation, convoke the convention, and that in that event, he should be in favor of “rescinding the law” and “abolishing” the legislature. I answered (without concluding myself by the opinion

—offering it merely as speculation) that high public considerations, in connection with the dignity of the Body and the desire, I know it feels, to promote harmony and Union among our People, would seem to suggest, that the Convention should proceed calmly and dispassionately to the discharge of its duties, *at the appointed time*—unmoved by any extraneous influences sought to be manufactured against it—and that in any opinion I may finally form in this regard, I should greatly defer to the judgment of those who possess the alternative power of calling the Con. in case of my death. My object in writing this, is to ask the favor of you, at the earliest convenient day, to give me your views upon Mr. R's proposal. I want them, because I know they will be calm, unprejudiced and such as propriety calls for.

Does the case supposed by Mr. R. come within any of those contingencies upon the happening of which it was the intention of the Convention that it should be called? There can be no other object in calling it before Novr. than to get clear of the law and the Legislature—its contemplated duties can be as well attended to in Novr. as now—and if the legislature choose to indulge in Passion and a spirit of resentment—it would seem unbecoming in the Convention to accept the issue tendered it, and make a war in which one of the Parties would be soon made to feel its weakness. Such a contest, unequal as it would be, would produce a popular excitement, much to be deprecated, whose results would be almost as calamitous as the struggle with our Northern Enemies. Should we not then bear and forbear?

I cannot close without saying—that this is a most extraordinary move in the Legislature—it savours of Revolution. An *invitation* is given to the People to repeal a solemn law and to revoke powers, by a vote at the Ballot Box—enunciating the opinion of a numerical majority. Ours is not a Government of majorities—tho' I admit Demagogues and Empirics are rapidly imbuing the Public Mind with that sentiment, and I fear that the current sets too strongly in that direction for the most skillfull Pilot to steer clear of the Breakers ahead. Our theory contemplates intermediate agencies, and denies the power of *Repeal* or *revocation* except by some regular organization, to which is confided, by the Constitution, the power of supervision and correction. A law becomes offensive to *certain political Palates*—and the Precedent now sought to be established will favor an appeal to the People at the Ballot Box to repeal it. If this is to become our doctrine, the days of the republic are numbered, there can be found no Palinurus to save us. I would write much more on this exhaustless subject, but will not tire you. Let us seek consolation in knowing that we have lived in the better days of the Republic, in the harvest time of its richest fruits. How are you my Friend! Have you recovered from the effects of the exhausting labors of the Convention? I sincerely hope you have, and that you are blessed and ever may be, with serenity of mind and health of Body. I have entirely recruited my strength, and am in my usual

health and spirits. It is difficult to tell you whether I relished most my drink or my food, upon getting home, both told with happiest effect upon my then dilapidated system.

To Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Graham.

N. B. I have 54 Hds. Tobc. stored away in my Barns, and am getting out my wheat to be also stored in my Granary, and there they shall remain if I can make out to pay taxes. Can I do better?

From Bartholomew F. Moore.

RALEIGH Sep 15/61

My very dear Sir;

I have rec^d. yours and delayed to respond because I thought it probable that I might meet Mr. Philips before the close of the week, and the whole Board might designate the time inquired of: But to day I am alone—Winston is gone and will not return till Wednesday or thursday—I shall be at home after Wednesday, and probably after tuesday of each week. I do not know the movements, entirely, of either of my associates; when we next have a full board I will let you know without delay.

The Stay law is a revolutionary measure, radical, unwise, demoralizing, disgraceful to the state, to the age and the Southern Confederacy. Its champions are the profligate, the spendthrifts, reckless, insolvents and especially such as have consideration because of the property around them for which they owe and are determined to keep upon no better principles than that which animates the bandit of the Alps. *Such is the effect of Civil war.* We have lived in the Golden age. Our children will pass through every other ere they have white heads.

Pardon this bit of paper, I started to write you about four lines—and I have been carried on till you see I too am garulous.

Most truly and sincerely

I am Yours as ever

B. F. MOORE.

P. S. When you come down bring Mrs. R with you and take your old lodgings. Mrs. Moore desires it

From W. F. Leak.¹

CONFIDENTIAL

ROCKINGHAM RICHMOND COUNTY

Sept. 24/61

Honl. T Ruffin

My D Sir

My name will be presented at the suggestion of friends, as well as in perfect accordance, with my own wishes as one of those from whom a Selection will be made by President Davis for Commissioners, under the confiscation, or rather the sequestration enactment of the Confederate Congress.

Wishing to fortify my claims as far as a truthful representation may go, I have address^d letters to some of the most prominent of my acquaintances asking a letter to the President, setting forth, character, qualifications, services in the cause of "State rights" etc., etc.

I have already rec^d letters to the President from Messrs. Edwards, Ash, Winston, Barringer and others, as also from R. M. T. Hunter Secty of State, with whom I have a partial acquaintance and I have this day written to others. For some time, (although most strongly inclined) I have hesitated in addressing you, not knowing, what your hitherto custom may have been, and even doubting whether my acquaintance with you, was such as to Justify the familiarity and liberty now taken.

I have at length presumed upon that acquaintance, and now take the liberty of asking of you such a letter to President Davis, as your knowledge of my character qualifications and life long devotion to the cause of "State rights" may entitle me to.

The Commissioners as you know constitute a board of 3, before whom claims for idemnity are prefer^d.

I have very little doubt, with the letters I have, as well as those I expect to procure, both from my own State, as from the Delegation of So. Carolina that if I am so fortunate as to obtain yours, that my chances for success are to say the least of it *very good*.

As I expect to visit Richmond for the purpose of delivering my letters to the President, I respectfully ask as early a response, as may be convenient,

Respectfully

Yours, ob, st,

W. F. LEAK

[Address: Graham Alamance County No Carolina.]

¹ Walter F. Leak, of Richmond County, 1799-1879, later a close friend of Ruffin.

From Bartholomew F. Moore.

RALEIGH Sep. 27/61

I promised to write you when I might be in a situation to inform you of the time when you could present the claim of your county:

I think we could give you audience next week on any day after tuesday.

Allow me to hope that the first act, (as, in my judgment, it is the first and highest duty,) of the convention will be to ingraft the administration of justice by the courts deep into the constitution. A heavier blow was never struck at our liberties than the Stay law. It is the beginning, if allowed to get a foothold, of continued efforts to discharge all debts and its end will be, if successful, to realize the truth of the calumny, long since published against the State, and thank God! most triumphantly refuted during my whole life, that North Carolina is the "rogues harbor."

The ignorant body, did not design to give the superior court jurisdiction of *all* claims, yet have they not done so? They did not intend to abolish the law of bail, yet have they not done so? They did not intend to abolish the penalty on Shffs, for not executing mesne process, but have they not done it? They did not intend to *force* sales under a *vend. Exp.* but have they not done it? The creditor cannot resort to a trust deed or mortgage and turn loose the identical property levied on. They did not intend to ruin sheriffs, yet what security have they for not selling perishable estate forthwith, although the exn. be not returnable in 12 mos? They forgot that a criminal accused of a capital felony, must lie in jail 12 mos. before trial, and after his appeal to the supe. court must lie then nearly another 12 mos. They have surrendered to the violent and wicked all power over land and slaves. If a trespasser gets a foothold he stays in defiance of the clearest right; and, unless where replevin may lie, a slave is at their mercy against the undoubted right of the owner. A state of things like this is a tyranny worse than ever felt on this land. The convention can and must rebuke it and apply a remedy, which will be beyond the control of an unprincipled legislature.

Pardon this effusion; To the honor of the State, I have heard no citizen approve it. I have heard hundreds denounce it. The measure vastly depreciates every kind of property; and if the assessors of estates for Confed. taxation will value truly, this measure will be found to have vastly depreciated the wealth of the State.

[P. S.] When you come down stay with me—

From George Washington.

HILLSBORO Sept. 30. 1861.

On my return here last evening I have received your favor of the 23rd inst, in relation to your Bonds etc. I was glad to be able to bring them thro' safely; but they occasioned me no extra trouble or expense, and I could not therefore think of any pecuniary compensation. I obtained full accounts from Messrs. Ward and Co. and the Fulton Bank, and also signed duplicate receipts to Messrs. Ward and Co. as you requested, and had intended bringing them to you; but just as I was starting it occurred to me that if I were searched and the Bonds etc. found to be *yours*, (thro' the accounts) that they would not only be seized, but I should forfeit my passport. I therefore burnt the accounts etc. together with other papers and letters I had with me. This was done on the instant as I was leaving, and it did not occur to me to attempt to keep a succinct statement of the accounts, as I thought copies of them might be obtained as soon as our communication with New York is again opened. I regret I do not remember the respective amounts named from Messrs. Ward and Co. and from the Bank: I think that from Messrs. Ward was about \$300, and from the Bank about \$200.—Tho' it may have been the reverse of this—Both amounts together I know, were about \$503.93—This I exchanged for Southern funds at 10% dis.—making the amt with dif of ex. added \$554.32—I handed to Mr. Cameron \$554.31.

I hope this statement, which is entirely from memory, as I kept no written memorandum, will suffice untill coppies of the accounts can be obtained.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin,
Alamance Co. N. C.

From E. T. Brodnax, Jr.

KINSTON October 8th, [1861]

I today forwarded a carriage to Graham to your care and you will oblige me very much if you would receive the same and take it to your house and write, or get some of the family to write to Alice that [it] is there so she can send for it, and pay the freight on it. I tried to pay it here but they would not receive it on carriages. The harness is with it, and if it does not arrive in two weeks please to let me know. It will be shipped perhaps between now and next Tuesday. I start for Gariesburg tomorrow there to be drilled and equipped to be formed into a Regiment and then it is thought we will go on to the main army

if so we will see hard times, but I do not dread it, if they only keep well at home and I can hear from there often. Give my best love to Aunt Annie and to the Children and tell Nannie a man promised to bring me the prettiest poney today I ever saw, (I agreed for him yesterday, and offered him his price delivered here) and if he does I will give it to her if he and I come through the wars safely. Best love to all the rest as they are too numerous to mention names.

*From W. R. Richardson.*¹

TREASURY DEPARTMENT OF NO. CAROLINA

Oct. 22d. 1861.

I write to ask of you the favor to offer as soon as convenient at the approaching session of the Convention the enclosed resolution,

The causes which induce me to make application for an increase of salary will no doubt appear plain to you,

Since the present salary was fixed, the duties of the Office have greatly increased; for instance: The establishment of the Sinking fund and consequently an increase of accounts for that purpose; The registration of Coupon Bonds, which of itself has become a source of considerable labor, The payment of coupons at this office which were heretofore paid at Bank of the Republic New York, and again, The issuing of Treasury notes which involves considerable labor; and although for this latter duty the Legislature authorized the Public Treasurer to employ additional aid for the signing, yet under the existing Law he does not feel authorized to pay me anything extra, as it might be supposed that any aid I render for that purpose would be due the State in consideration of my stated salary, Besides the instances above related, the general business of the office has greatly increased owing to the existing war and other causes.

In view of the foregoing facts I can hardly suppose that the Convention will hesitate to grant the small addition to the salary of the office, and I am confident that few who are competent, would be willing to undertake its duties at the present salary. Having been connected with the office some six years and familiar with its duties, I would dislike very much to leave it, if by any slight sacrifice of pecuniary advantage it could be avoided.

I would respectfully refer you to the Public Treasurer (Mr. Courts) for the correctness of the foregoing.

Should it be your pleasure to offer the resolution you will confer a lasting obligation by acknowledging the receipt of this, and so stating,

¹ Chief clerk in the state treasurer's office.

In conclusion I would state that your acknowledged high and influential position as a member of the convention and your appreciation of those who try to make themselves worthy of Public confidence has caused me to apply to you on this occasion.

Hon Thos. Ruffin

Graham

No. Ca.

Resolved

That in view of the increased duties of his Office the chief clerk of the State Treasury Department shall hereafter receive an annual salary of Twelve Hundred dollars.

*From Jesse G. Shepherd.*¹

FAYETTEVILLE

November 7, 1861.

Will you be good enough to give me a letter, in which you will state your opinion of me as a lawyer, of my character as a gentleman and my position in the State? I desire to use such a letter for introduction out of the State, and to make an application to Prest. Davis for a place that is in my profession.

*From Cameron MacRae.*²

PETERSBURG

Nov. 18th. 61.

When hostilities were about to commence I left my place in Phila, and came home that I might share the destinies of my own people, and have served for 6 weeks as Chaplain to one of the No. Ca. Regiments near Yorktown.

Feeling unequal to the Exposure incident to a life in Camp during the inclement season of the year—and unwilling to be idle I applied for the situation of Chaplain in the No. Ca. hospital in this place—but the bill establishing the hospital made no provision for a Chaplain and the appointment was not conferred.

The hospital has in it more than 200 sick soldiers.

Shall no provision be made for their spiritual wants?

¹ Jesse George Shepherd, of Cumberland, a graduate of the University in the class of 1841, speaker of the House of Commons, 1856-1858, judge of the Superior Court, 1859-1860.

² Rev. Cameron F. McRae, 1812-1872, chaplain of the Fifteenth Regiment.

It has occurred to me that the Convention would realize the necessity of supplying the omission in this bill passed by the Legislature should its attention be called to the matter, and I have ventured to invoke your aid in this matter, which from my Observation and Experience in the hospitals I feel to be one of pressing urgency.

I leave in the morn'g. for Washington where I shall be happy to receive any Communication from you.

From George W. Mordecai to Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, 21, Nov. 1861.

Kenneth Rayner Esq.

Chairman.

Dear Sir.

A Special meeting of the Board of Directors of this Bank was called today for the purpose of submitting your proposition for a further loan to the State.

With every desire and inclination to aid the State, we felt compelled from a proper regard to the interests of the Bank as well as of the Community to decline any further loan at this time.

The present outstanding debt of the Bank amounts to Four and a half millions of Dollars, the greater part of which under the operation of the stay laws is completely locked up, but few of our debtors paying any regard to the repeated and urgent calls of the Bank, and most of those who do renew, paying little more than the interest.

The Board of Directors is restricted by a resolution of the Stockholders to a small additional loan to the State, which would afford no material aid to the State, while it would operate very injuriously on the interests of the Bank, as it would require us to increase our circulation which is already larger than we desire. Our Deposits are very heavy and liable to be called for at any moment.

It has been the object and desire of this Bank to preserve the currency of the State from depreciation as far as in their power, which can only be done by restricting the Bank Circulation within proper limits.

Under all these considerations I am instructed by the Board, to say, that we cannot consistently with our sense of duty to the State, the Bank and the Community consent to increase our line of discounts.

Allow me to suggest to you the propriety of so modifying the Act of the Legislature, authorizing the issue of Treasury Notes, as to make

those of the larger denominations bear an interest of at least 6 and I would say 7 $\frac{3}{100}$ per cent, as I do not believe those payable in 1867 without interest would circulate or be received in payment of debts.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt.

GEO. W. MORDECAI,
Prest.

From John M. Morehead.

GREENSBORO 23rd Nov. 1861.

I regret exceedingly that my engagements have been such, that I have not had it in my power to spend a night with you at yr. own home, or at Raleigh. I leave in the morning for Richmond, as I am a week behind time now, I cannot stop.

I wish to draw yr. attention to the recommendation of the President as to the Greensboro and Danville connections, and more particularly do I do so now, as I recd. a letter this morning from a distinguished member of the S. C. Legislature on the subject, who says that if I will take hold of it, or any other reliable humane man, with whom negroes can be safely entrusted, that the Sea-Island planters will furnish negroes to do the grading of the road in double quick time at exceedingly low figures, on account of the safety of their location.

Now the matter to which I wish to draw yr. attention is this—there is a charter to run *a road* from some point on the Va. Line near Danville passed session before last (2 years ago) to the Coal Fields. The Danville and Richmond Charter gives them authority to build or extend their road to a certain extent. By these two charters, it was contemplated to run the Danville Road to the Va. Line, some 6 or 8 miles below Leaksville, under the charter, and then we take it up under our charter (Mr. Brodnax's Road), and run it by Leaksville to Germanton.

At the last regular session the Charter to run the Road from Greensboro to Leaksville was passed—and thus the Greensboro and Danville connection can be made by virtue of the *three charters*.

But this is not right. It should be one corporation throughout or at least there should be but one change and that should be at Danville or Leaksville—it will be the same—if the Danville road is extended to Leaksville (ignoring the intermediate charter) or the Greensboro and Leaksville Road is extended to Danville. Now had we not better have our charters so modified as to effect this object. The Convention of both States are in session and can give the necessary charter.

The next question that presents itself, is, shall the nearest possible *route* be selected.

I think not, that was a desideratum under the old company, while the large stream of travel was continually passing between the North and the South—that day is gone—I confidently believe *never* to *return*. This connection is now to be viewed in a military point of view. Should the road run from the Shops by Milton to *Rocksdale* [?]*—*it will be merely a road of travel—if direct from Greensboro to Danville it will pass near the High Rock and will still be a road of mere travel. It will be some 5 or 6 miles further to go from Greensboro via Leaksville to Danville—this will still answer for a line of travel but let us see what other advantages *arise*. We have two magnificent deposits of Coal and Iron in N. C. on Deep and Dan Rivers—these deposits are to give to the South their great strength in furnishing the materials for defense. Our Southern Republic is going to assume something of a military character. Our domestic institutions will rejoice that those who rule shall be always prepared to control those under them.

Our armories, shops, foundries, etc. etc. must be located in these valleys where the iron, the coal and the water-power are in juxtaposition and exhaustless—to give to these establishments every possible efficiency and success. They should have access, to every kind of coal and of iron that both valleys produce—for the mixture of molds greatly enhances its excellence and the easy and perfect intercourse between these two regions will greatly facilitate the works.

Now there is already a charter to run the Road from Deep River to some point on the N. C. Road. I think it a matter of no importance so far as convenience is concerned when it strikes the N. C. Road—then let it strike the Dan River Road at Greensboro and we have a direct connection between our coal and iron fields and shops etc. so far in the interior that no foreign enemy could reach us, or our shops until he had subjugated the State—these and others are my views why I think the road had better run by our Coal-fields in Dan.

There is another view not unworthy of notice. While the nearest route between the North and South was desirable, Lynchburg desired to run a road from that place via Leaksville to Greensboro—perhaps the anxiety was near Leaksville to some extent—but that road will be made at some day. I see the advantages of it in a military point of view—all our troops could have been sent that way directly to Manassas and the upper part of Va.

I throw out these crude suggestions for yr. more mature consideration and Judgment—and shall be pleased to hear from you.

P. S. I regret I could not lend yr. neighbor to the salt works.

From W. R. Richardson.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Nov. 25. 1861.

I trust you will pardon me for requesting that you will bring the subject of an increase of my salary to \$1,200, before the Committee of Finance at their next meeting and ask the presence of the Treasurer in order that he may give the facts of my case.

By so doing you will confer a favor which I can not forget.

Hon Thos. Ruffin

Present.

From Thomas Bragg.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

RICHMOND NOV. 27th, 1861.

Sir.

The several states of the Confederacy have been applied to and have very generously, many of them, furnished this Department with their laws and Reports of decisions by their courts. Governor Clark caused to be sent the laws but had not our Reports at his disposal. These are very much needed. May I ask of you the favor to get a Resolution passed through the Convention, if you think it right, to have sent to this Department a set of No. Ca. Supreme Co. Reps. I am not sure that a full set can be had from the library, if not it would be no great matter to order their purchase. In either event I would suggest that Mr. Perry, the Librarian, be authorized to send them. A collision is expected soon on the Potomac and you will see interesting dispatches from the South in the papers perhaps before this reaches you.

Very truly yours,

THOS. BRAGG.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

From Thomas C. Foust.

GRAHAM December 1st 1861.

At the request of Mr. Holmes the assessor of your district I drop you a line to inform you that at the meeting of the assessors on last Saturday they decided that State Bonds must be valued the same as money at Interest and as such they are returned to me, at their Par value.

Before he made out his list complete he asked my opinion in regard to them and I gave it as my opinion from a careful reading of the Laws that they were taxed the same as money at Interest. I was led to form that opinion from the part of the Law which relates to money at Interest in Sections 4th and 20th I wish you would read the Laws again and if you are still of the opinion that they are taxed at their marketable value, I will write to the Secretary of Treasury in regard to it. Please let me hear from you.

From Samuel A. Ashe¹ to William K. Ruffin.

WILMINGTON, Dec. 2nd. [1861]

On arriving at home a few days ago I found your letter with its very kind invitation for sister and myself to visit you, quietly waiting my return from a jaunt to Beaufort and its vicinity. Mary Porter returns her thanks for your compliment, and I regret indeed my inability to comply with your request at present, being on the eve of departing for Virginia on business which has already been delayed too long. Three weeks since—immediately on hearing of the enemy's success at Fort Royal, a friend and myself started with our rifles for the scene of active operation, intending to join those troops whose chances of being first engaged were best, but on arriving at Coosawhatchee a village on the Cha. and Sav. R. R. situated near 25 miles from Beaufort, we found our military affairs quite different from what we had anticipated. There were some few troops in the immediate vicinity; none were nearer the enemy. Hearing that Col. Radcliffe's N. C. Regt. was to advance, we connected ourselves with it as independent volunteers, and went into camp near the head of navigation in the bay. Everything there remained quiet: our commanding General was recalled to Charleston. Gen. Lee went to Florida. Our advanced posts were still 15 miles from the unfortunate town, and there was not even a rumor—in which military men especially delight—of changing a single camp.—A negro stole one valise, which necessitated a speedier return than we had desired. However just before we left, an expedition was placed under the command of my companion, which visited Beaufort, where were found three Yankee Gun boats whose seamen were being hospitably entertained by the negroes in the deserted residences of their Masters', who had fled in unwarrantable alarm at the

¹ Samuel A'Court Ashe, 1840—, son of William S. Ashe, of Wilmington, had been for three years a student at the Naval Academy from which he resigned on account of ill health. After service in the Confederate Army, he was a lawyer and journalist, was active in politics, and a prolific writer. He resides at present in Raleigh, N. C., where he is clerk of the United States District Court.

first gun below. Prudence prevented a discovery, and at daybreak they returned to the woods and got back to camp the evening of the fourth day; having travelled near 90 miles. It appears that the terror which bursting shells caused among our unskilled recruits at the batteries, spread itself throughout the neighboring communities. A desire to seek safety in the up-country prevailed everywhere. On their desertion by the whites the negroes did not know what to do. They consequently remained where they were, excepting a few bold ones who betook themselves to the enemy's vessels—and others, who sought the repose of neighboring forests. In the town they were more at ease; being assured of protection by Yankee officers, they appropriated whatever suited their fancy.

The enemy have kept themselves pretty close and up to the day I left, had not made a single marauding expedition. It is reported now that Gen. Lee is desirous of establishing a cordon of regiments around the bay to protect those farmers who will return, and to secure the rail road. There will hardly be a collision there for six weeks. Savannah and Charleston are both well protected, and Navy officers have informed me that they cannot be taken by water. I think any soldier would swear that they cannot be invested by a land force—as we would then have a fair showing.

In your letter, you may remember, you made some reference to State pride—likening our Confederacy to that of the Grecian States. The comparison is very striking. Every one must wish, I suppose, the inculcation of pride of State, but unless it is accompanied by earnest efforts for substantial State improvements, it can hardly effect much towards rendering us materially superior to our confederates. Perhaps no State in our late Union could boast of more loyal and devoted sons than So: Carolina, and yet but few states possessing her great advantages are so little improved as she. Having ever had men of great wealth she could always collect a body whose cultivation and inherited intellect would place them in the first rank as Statesmen and orators, but still her resources are undeveloped, her policy of internal improvements not consistent, and her court forms and system of jurisprudence have, I understand, undergone none of the beneficial changes that mark the progress of her more unsophisticated neighbor. Did the National Government attract too considerable a share of attention?

Please remember me affectionately to your father's family,

With respect, Your friend

S. A. ASHE.

From Jacob Garrett.

SANDY GROVE CHATHAM Co. N. C.

December the 3d 1861

Mr Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir after my Respects to you and thanks for favors past may I be permitted to address you as a friend and ask a favor at your hands, on a subject that has laterly bin impressed on my mind by seeing and knowing the disadvantageous my sons labor under for the want of an Education and the many appeals I see to Parents to Educate ther children, and an application made to President Davis to have a youth discharge from service in the Army whoo redily complied and sayed that useing up Boys in the Army was like Grinding seed Corn. I therefore wish to get my son from the army and send him to School if I can get a discharg for him, he has many good trates about him that will be lost to the community unless he can have a better Education. I therefore feel it my duty to make the effort to get him to School. now how to proseed in what I want to know is the subject of my writing to you if the Guviner is the proper one I want you to lay the matter before him and see if it can be done I hope you will lend me your influence to the matter he is in the 26th Regement Col. Z. B. Vance Capt McLane when Sworn in but is now capt Lane Chatham Boys the name of the company I therefore hope you will lend me your influence plase write to me as soon as you asertain what can be done direct your letter to Graham. Yours etc.

JACOB GARRETT,

the age of my son is 18 his name is William Alex Garrett,

From Thomas Carter.

RALEIGH N. C. Decr. 3rd, 1861.

As my business is not yielding a support for my family I would be glad to receive the appointment of commissioner of the Salt-works or any other appointment the Convention can bestow. I am known in this community as an energetic business man of first quality, competent to perform anything I undertake. I have no doubt Mr. Rayner, Battle and many other members of the convention would support the nomination if I received it. Would be thankful for your influence. I am well acquainted with our Seaboard and Water courses.

From John M. Morehead.

RICHMOND 4 Dec. 1861.

Your esteemed favor was duly read—and I should be willing to lend my aid to make the connection between the N. C. and Danville Roads but I do not think my presence at Raleigh would lend any aid to effect the object. My efforts to effect that object has been so often thwarted by the influence of the Eastern Roads and the N. C. Road itself, that my presence would arouse the old hostility notwithstanding the pressing urgency of the measure; which I think is greatly increased, by reading the message of Lincoln—recommending a Military Road for Kentucky through Cumberland Gap. He evidently has his eye on Western N. C. But to the Connection—whatever might have been the opposition of the other roads where there was *through travel* that they might loose by this connection—I think they have nothing to fear now—the through [travel] between the North and South is at an end now and perhaps forever—at least to much extent. Then where should the connection be made. I have never had but one opinion where it *ought to be made* and that is to run as directly from Greensboro to Danville, as practicable, keeping in view *all the time* our vast coalfields, the development of which is as much a military necessity as the road itself—for around here they find great difficulty to keep a supply of coal to smelt iron—the bituminous coal not answering the purpose without coking—and then not very good—the dry coal of Dan River being the *very kind* needed. Pig iron is greatly needed—the Dan River coalfields abound in iron. Rockingham has any quantity of iron in various places—the Road ought to run within a mile of the ore bed of the old Iron works—we have in Reedy fork vast quantities of the richest ores—and the people of Lincoln, who have nearly abandoned the making iron for failure of charcoal are looking to the opening these mines—to work their mines.

Then let the Road run from Greensboro, crossing Troublesome above the iron works and crossing the Road leading from Wentworth to High Point about 3 miles east of Wentworth and strike the Perkins ferry Road about where the Road forks, to go to Leaksville, which is about 4 miles below Wentworth and about 6 miles from Leaksville—then pursue the Perkins ferry Road to a mile below fultons old place—then down the ridge by Frank Wether's, called Mars old Road—and on by Wakefield (Hands old field in yr. day) then down the Ridge to the Big Gates—Browns plantation and cross half Island exactly at its mouth, where *Nature* has already made a crossing place, except building the Bridge and thence to Danville—this route will be about 45 to 47 miles, will have no bridges except a girder bridge, of some 40 feet long,

which costs but little more than a common county Bridge—and may be run from Troublesome to half Island some 30 miles—without crossing a branch but to save distance I would cross one if not two, which is easily done—no other rout for facility of Construction is to compare to it—and we rail the Danville Road on the South Side.

This Road can be quickly built—and if it is desirable to reach the coalfields an arm six miles long with a Bridge across Dan River can be built at leisure.

This Arm should or may be made a part of the Road which is chartered to run to the Va. and Tennessee Road—chartered by Va. Leaksville is the terminus of a Ridge running between Smiths and Mayo Rivers—up to the Blue Ridge—and all their survey, for that Road takes this Ridge after crossing Smiths River about Morgans ford—some six miles above Leaksville.

Here there is an arm to connect with on the right Ridge and on the right side of the River—if that Road shall ever be built—and that opens up to us the salt plaster and Lime of the valley of Va.

Of course the route heretofore surveyed through my premises suits me best, but I do not think it as good a rout as the other.

Every effort is being made to defeat this connection—plats are being exhibited of various routes—one from Keysville to Clarksville and thence to Ridgeway—how ridiculous as a military Road—another from the shops—or to avoid building a bridge across Haw River, from Trolingers to Danville or Rocksdales near Milton,—another from Greensboro by Wentworth, cross at Lylesfield and so around the coalfields and through Henry county to Danville makes it some 62 miles long. All such things are put afloat to deceive those who know no better. Compare the routs.

From Greensboro to Danville will not vary one mile from 47—by the rout I propose for by actual measurement in the late survey made, it is 24 miles from Leaksville to Danville, and by taking the Perkins ferry Road it will be greatly shortened.

From Greensboro to Shops	23
From Shops to Rocksdales—by those who try to shorten the distance is	42
Distance	65
And a bridge to build	
From Greensboro to Shops	23
From Shops to Danville	40
	63
Greensboro to Danville—47 and to Rocksdales 12 =	59
“ via shops to “	65
“ via “ to Danville 63+12 to Rocksdales.	75

Now observe while the upper route is the nearest, runs in six miles of the Coalfields—and much nearer to all the Piedmont region for trade—neither of the other routs approaches these regions—Greensboro being the nearest point to the coal and traffic. I wish the country a safe decision.

[P. S.] Please show this to my delegation.

From J. W. Hall.

SALISBURY, N. C.

Dec. 4th, 1861.

As you are aware, the Confederate Government has established a prison here for Federal prisoners in this place. Hon. B. Craige and Judge Caldwell have presented my name to Hon. J. P. Benjamin as the Surgeon. Many other friends have also made the same request. Mr. Craige suggests that I shall ask the favor of you and Judge Badger to write a letter to Mr. Benjamin in my behalf.

I have written to Judge Badger at the same time I write this making the request, which I know he will do.

May I ask the favor of you, at your earliest convenience.

I am now attending to the guard who are here, and Capt. McCoy tells me he will have 150 or 200 prisoners here next week.

I shall esteem it a high favor if you will do this for me.

From William S. Ashe.

TELEGRAM.

Received at Raleigh, Dec. 7, 1861. at 9 o'clock, 15 minutes.
By Telegraph from Richmond. To Judge Ruffin.

If not too late better amend your bill chartering Danville Connection so as to allow the Government if preferable to connect at Company Shops so as to extend to Coalfields. Reports of fighting at Manassas not credited.

W. S. ASHE.

From William S. Ashe.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8th, 1861.

I sent you a telegram on yesterday, and would have written last night but was under an obligation to accompany a committee of Rail Road Presidents to an interview with Mr. Davis. My telegram was intended to procure an amendment to the bill chartering a military road from Greensboro to Danville, authorizing the Confederate Government (if deemed preferable) to run the road from the Shops to Danville.

There are many considerations which conduce to make such an amendment desirable. Upon an examination of the condition of the different rail roads in the Confederacy we find a most alarming deficiency both in Rails and in Rolling Stock. There are but few companies that can continue operations longer than the year without an increased supply.

The Confederate Government knows and feels this deficiency, and will be compelled to use every possible effort to extricate them from the dilemma.

The coal and iron from Deep River must be brought into use.

President Davis is fully impressed with this conviction and it behooves your Convention (as it has assumed legislative powers) to afford him every possible facility to obtain access to that region of our State.

In addition to granting the charter amended as proposed, a separate charter for a Rail Road should be granted running from the coal fields to the Shops or some other point on the N. C. R. R.

I would not trouble you about this matter if its importance did not demand it.

No war news of importance today.

From Edward T. Brodnax.

SAURA TOWN, Decembr. 16th, 1861.

* * * * *

It was discover^d upon gathering our corn, that the injury sustain^d by the several freshets in the river, was greater than was anticipated. Yet we have gather^d an abundant crop. All the wheat along the road as well as here, looks badly—I suppose from the sudden accession of cold weather. And now if our Convention had done all the good, it could do, for our State, and Confederacy, I should much prefer not to return in so short a time to the City of Oaks.

From John S. Henderson.¹

SALISBURY N. C. Dec. 16th, 1861.

In accordance with my promise, I take this opportunity of writing to you. I left that history of Europe, which contains the history of George the third and fourth, at Holts store in Graham and I hope, you have received ere this. Father says that he has'ent once thought of the candidates for Governor; his mind is wholly absorbed in the war; but he thinks it would have been a good thing if the "Convention" had adjourned sine die. He is afraid the "Conservatives" are up to some trick. I suppose you have heard all about the conflagration in Charleston; the Yankees are determined to worry us every conceivable way. I hope the people of the South will do all in their power to aid the houseless and destitute of Charleston. . . .

From N. H. D. Wilson.

GREENSBORO, N. C.

Dec. 17th 1861.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Sr.

Dear Sir,

I hope it will be in your power, Providence permitting, to attend the Convention which will meet at Augusta, Geo. the 3d Monday of March 1862, for the purpose of forming a Confederate States Bible Society. If so please accept the appointment of a delegate from North Carolina, and have the kindness to inform me of your acceptance at your earliest convenience, so that I may announce your name with others some time in January next.

Most respectfully,

N. H. D. WILSON, *Prest.*

N. C. Bible Convention.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Dec. 24th—1861.

We have received the half of the fine mutton you were so kind as to send us. I assure you it is a most welcome "Christmas present"—and I anticipate a most delightful dinner off of it tomorrow. Susan's reply on my carrying it into her room was—"how kind, in the Judge, to think

¹ John Steele Henderson, of Rowan, later a very prominent lawyer and legislator, at this time a student at the University.

of us"! It is a very fine mutton—and as I have told you before I shall never feel that I am enjoying "*good living*," till I am able to have such a mutton once a month.

I suppose you have, as I have been enjoying the news from England; and looking forward earnestly for the raising of the Southern blockade by English fleets. I am afraid Lincoln and his Cabinet may not [have] the nerve to persist in the course they have taken. I notice from the paper to-night an extract from the "*N. York Herald*," that it might be better to surrender Mason and Slidell, than incur a war with England, *at the present time*.

We are all pretty well. The children are all up—but several of my negroes are down with measles. I must go down to Hertford in the course of a week, to attend to saving my pork.

Present our kind regards to Mrs. Ruffin and the other members of your family. A happy Christmas to all of you!

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Allamance Co.

From Gaston D. Cobb.

ROANOKE ISLAND Dec. 25th 1861.

I may possibly be trespassing upon your time but I feel that it is my duty to say something of a matter that has caused great dissatisfaction in this Regt. and ask you to try and see that justice may be done.

By reference to the "Regulations for the Army" Article II Section 5 it says "when commissions are of the same date, the rank is to be decided between officers of the same Regt. or corps by the order of appointment," I also refer you to a decision lately made by Mr. Benjamin Secretary of war on the same point. Now this course has not been adopted so far as the officers of this Regt are concerned thereby causing injustice and dissatisfaction. Some of the Officers have written to the Adjt. Gen and he has so far refused to answer why it has been done. There are three Capts at least whose appointments have been made since mine that have been placed over me. If I had been treated unjustly alone I might not have complained but several others have been treated with similar injustice and having in vain appealed to the Adjt. Gen. for redress, as a last resort appeal to the members of the Convention to see that injustice is not done. I do not think that I am disposed generally to be captious, nor do I complain of the most of those placed over me but I feel that I have some rights as well as others and I could not do less than make one effort to get what I clearly and decidedly believe my honest dues.

I should be pleased to hear from you at any time.

Judge Ruffin

Raleigh N. C.

From Charles Manly.

RALEIGH Dec. 25, 1861.

Christmas Morning, right side up.

My Dear Ch. Justice.

I recd last night that magnificent mutton foreshadowed by your letter the day before.

According to orders I betook myself immediately to the bisection. Calling up Trim and Samivel with knife and cleaver I commenced scientifically at the neck and got along quite well until I discovered that one side had gotten all the *tail*. Here was a *priminary*. The division must be *equal*. It was Trim's fault, said I. But says the common law, *Eujus est divisio, aeterius est electio*. But says I, Rayner is not here to make the choice; then, says liberality, send him the tail side; says avarice and selfishness dont give up that tail. The thing got into a *quandary*. I thought of throwing up "heads and tails"; that would be gambling!, horrid! I then bethought me of that game of hazard played by Thrash. Neal and Major Poe of Chatham where the said Thrashley lost all his Bacon. But that was a mighty cheatin game and Rayner wer'nt here to watch.

At length in a fit of desperation says I, Samivel, Samivel, my Buck, take that side next to you, (seeing very plainly that the tail was next to me) and take it to Mr. Rayner etc.

I felt sorter mean, but my conscience was smothered out from the reflection that if we all live to see another Christmas I've no doubt you'll send us another of the same sort, of which R. shall have certainly the coveted part.

And now, my dear sir, I want you to help us eat it. Not expecting such a treat my wife had cut out her Christmas dinner and that too on a gigantic scale; for Cora and I (carrying the joke too far) had spoken of the number of persons, men and women we had invited to dinner and the old 'Oman "pitched in" slaying to the right and left till a famine is likely to ensue. The mutton (Jinny Bond, our old cook says) will keep till New Years or Old Christmas after her salting and wrapping up in meal. You'll be down to see about the coupons; Mat, will be up also, the Old 'Oman will bring out an old musty Bottle of Champagne and we'll have a *reg-lar Bender*.

I wish to get up a real old fashion spree; such as certain worthies got into the night before the inauguration of Gov. Dudley. You may have *heard* that on that memorable occassion, when the Champagne had "gin out" and the Bar Keeper would not rise from bed to get more, one of those same worthies, well versed no doubt in such tapstering filled up the glasses with raw French Brandy and Sugar which being drunk from long neck glasses at 2 O'ck. A.M. was pronounced tip top Champagne.

Somebody "seed sights" that night, sure.

I shall convey to Capt. Basil C. of the artillery your kind words concerning him. He has a very high regard and affection for you. He often speaks of your notice and attentions.

And now, my Dear Young Friend, Goodbye. A Merry and happy Christmas to you and all your Family.

I shall drink your health at $3\frac{1}{2}$ in a bumper. Hands all round likewise.

Yours with true regard

CHAS. MANLY.

From Robert Strange.

WILMINGTON

Jan 1st, 1862.

I received this morning your letter of the 28 ult.

I gave your order to Messrs DeRossett and Brown, and you will no doubt be surprised to hear that *tar* is a scarce article in this market. Mr. Brown told me that he did not think there was a barrel of tar in town at this time, but that he would take the order and send the 2 barrels as directed as soon as he could get it.

We are all quiet here. The Yankees slipped in from the blockading vessels on Monday night—and burnt a large light-boat that had been filled with stone to sink in the channel if it became necessary. The boat was lying inside of the bar and just under the guns of Fort Caswell, but the night was very calm and very dark. Two of our Picket guard have disappeared. Whether carried off by the Yankees, or what has become of them we have not yet learned.

* * * * *

From David L. Swain.

RALEIGH, 8 Jan. 1862.

Gov. Vance did not return to Raleigh during my former visit until the evening that I was compelled to return home, and the first convenient opportunity for a conference with him and the Public Treasurer was offered me on Tuesday last. They both expressed in decided terms their concurrence with your plan of selling our six per cent State Bonds with coupons payable in New York at a premium and reinvesting the proceeds in the new six per cent bonds, authorized at the present session of the General Assembly and the Public Treasurer intimated his desire that the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund should bid for half

the amount of the stock to be offered on the 26th *proximo*. He called upon me this morning, however, to say that he was at present of the opinion that there would be bids for the entire amount of bonds now offered at a premium, and that it would be for us to consider the expediency of disposing of any portion of our bonds until another sale. He seems disposed at present if paper and the requisite lithographs can be obtained to emit treasury notes to the greatest practicable extent, and thus save the interest which would accrue on the sale of bonds. To what extent he can render treasury notes available if he shall be able to obtain the requisite plates, paper etc. in time to meet the exigencies of the Treasury, remain to be determined. I understand that the requisitions on the department, since he entered upon the discharge of his duties, are in amount little short of a million.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin.

If our unfortunate friend Mr. Badger, is undergoing any favourable change it is scarcely perceptible to his acquaintances. He recognized Mr. Stanly, the Clerk of the Ho. of Com. this morning and inquired after his health. He replied to a similar question from Mr. Stanly, he merely answered "so so." S. F. Phillips Esq. who watched at his bedside Monday night and again last night says that he was recognized on entering both times, and he inclines to the opinion that he is rational. He was 67 in April last. Judging from various relations made to me, his condition is very similar to what his kinsman's, the late Mr. Stanly, was at the same length of time after the attack.

From Bartholomew F. Moore.

RALEIGH Jany 9/62

You will recollect that when last summer you honored me with a short sojourn at my house I asked your opinion upon the question whether the members of the Board of claims were entitled to the *per diem* pay including sundays while engaged in their official labors, and you verbally gave it to me, citing a precedent. I communicated your opinion to my associates, and we have all acted in accordance with it as well in respect to themselves as to the secretary and messenger.

The Board are desirous of getting your opinion in writing upon the question. Please oblige us and let us have it at as practicable.

[P. S.] Paper is scarce—I am looking for it to be scarcer. I send an extract from the Ordinance.

[ENCLOSURE]

"The said Board shall report the result of their labors and proceedings, with a brief statement of the character of each claim allowed

at the conclusion of their labors, or from time to time, as they may think proper, to this Convention, either at the present or any future session. Each member of the Board shall be allowed six dollars per day, and the clerk shall be allowed four dollars per day for each day they shall be actually employed."

From William S. Pettigrew.

MAGNOLIA (Scuppernong P.O.) N. C.

Jan. 30, 1862.

It affords me much pleasure to redeem, this morning, the promise, made before leaving Raleigh, to write to you at my earliest convenience after my arrival at home. My home being in a part of the country which is far from the telegraphic lines, information as to the movements of the enemy does not reach me at as early a day as it will yourself at Raleigh. Here, however, as elsewhere, the country is filled with rumors, all of which are to be received with large allowance.

I came by the way of Tarboro and Williamston. The public mind had been much excited on the subject of the apprehended attack on Washington and Newbern, and the militia that had been drafted in those two counties had left for the former place. Judge Biggs, whom I saw in Williamston, informed me that he had adjourned the Court, for the present, at Edenton, regarding, as he did, the feeling of apprehension, or at least uncertainty, as being such as would forbid the propriety of its session at that time.

There appears to me to be no question of the fact that there were a large number of Yankee vessels in Pamlico Sound at the time I left Raleigh, and that it was their intention, in the course of the week, to have attacked Roanoke Island. They were prevented by the storm from carrying this plan into execution. Having heard but little as to the effect on their vessels, it is, at this time, out of our power to form an opinion with certainty as to when they will be in a condition to commence active operations. On Tuesday last the militia were drafted in the County of Tyrrel. The war spirit was so much in the ascendant that one hundred and twenty persons volunteered on that day at Columbia—seventy of whom enlisted for the war. As the entire militia of the county was assembled, there were persons from Croatan—which is the extreme limit of Tyrrel and opposite Roanoke Island—who stated that there were at Stumpy Point—some miles below Croatan

—thirteen steamers of the enemy. They also stated that there was but one battery on the Tyrrel side of the water, and *that* with seven guns and that the officers were sending their baggage farther into the country from the fort.

My journey from Tarboro to this place was such as to tax my restoration to health some little. I contracted some cold, which has confined me to the house; but I am now pretty well. As yet I have not determined when to leave for Raleigh. It must be dependent on circumstances. I would be very glad to hear from the Convention, presuming it is yet in session, and if you have time to write me a line, would be gratified. As soon as I may think it well to leave I will certainly do so. Mrs. George Collins has been indisposed; but I believe is better. The other members of Mr. Collins' family are in their usual health. My brother and family are also well, as is also my sister. My sister thanks you for your kind message, and begs you to accept her kindest esteem and regard.

* * * * *

Judge Ruffin,
Raleigh, N. C.

From George W. Swepson.

HAW RIVER Feby 3rd 1862

Mr Bryson¹ of Cherokee has introduced into the convention an ordinance allowing the Miners and Planters Bank to establish a Branch east of the Ridge. I own about \$30,000 of stock in that Bank, and *know* it to be in as good condition as any Bank in N. C. The Public Treasr. borrowed last spring from the Bank \$12,495 and paid it out in the west for Horses etc. The Bank also owns \$42,000 of N. C. state bonds. Application would not be made to the convention for a Branch, but the next Tax has to be paid before the Legislature meets. It is thought to be an act of justice to the Tax payers of Western N. C. that the Bank whose notes circulate with them, shall be allowed a chance at least, to make its notes current in eastern N. C. I will take it as a *personal favour* if you will use your influence in favour of the measure when it comes up.

¹ James Holmes Bryson, a member of the convention, who served in the House of Commons in 1862 and in the Senate in 1864.

*From Fries and Fries.*¹

SALEM N. C. Feby 7th '62.

Judge T. Ruffin

Gov. Wm. A. Graham.

Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sirs.—When you see that it is not for private troubles, but on account of real or apprehended difficulties, arising out of our transactions with the State authorities, you will excuse us for claiming a few moments of your time.

Early last summer the Quartermaster of our State sent an Agent here, to get us to promise the produce of our Mill to his department. We were under obligations to our old customers which we could not disregard, and therefore begged the Quartermaster to do his best to get supplies elsewhere, and if possible to excuse us. After trying the other mills in the State he insisted on our promising, as he declared that the soldiers could not be clad as they should be, unless all the mills contributed their supplies. We yielded to what we considered public necessity, thereby greatly incommoding our old customers, and not consulting our own pecuniary advantage, as we have, all the time sold to the State at a price far below that offered by outsiders.

For this we claim no credit. Our course has our own approval and that is enough.

When the Quartermaster advised us that from that date he could pay only in Treasury notes issued under a former ordinance of the Convention, and bearing interest; we were content to receive such payment. First, we were willing to carry as large a portion of those notes, as our means and business would permit; secondly, we felt confident that by parting with them to individuals seeking investments, or making some arrangement with the Bank, we could convert a sufficient amount into available funds to enable us to carry on our business. The recent action of the Convention however in striking out the interest features of these notes, caused us serious uneasiness. We saw, or thought we saw, that if in addition to the already inflated currency of our State, three or four millions of Treasury notes must be forced upon the community as circulation, without the safety valve of having at least a portion absorbed as investments, there was great reason to fear an explosion. Our judgment told us that those banks that have a scrupulous eye to their own solvency and the public welfare must, if our views were correct, decline to take indiscriminate general deposits. Hoping that our apprehensions might not be well founded, we at once went to the cashier of the Bank at this place to inquire whether he would take

¹ Fries and Fries were well-known woolen manufacturers. The business was founded in 1840 by Francis Fries and his brother Henry W. Fries was later taken into the firm.

these new Treasury notes on deposit, and give us on our checks such currency as would be available to us. We, however, found him entertaining the same views and fears that harrowed our breast. He has now a large mass of currency in his vaults, which brings the Bank no advantage, and he felt himself constrained, with the lights before him, to decline swelling his deposits by taking in these Treasury notes. We forthwith addressed the Prest. of the Bank of N. Carolina and requested to open a deposit account with this institution for such funds as we might receive from the State. He expressed a kind willingness to serve both, the State and us, but felt constrained to decline opening such account. Though our judgment approves his decision we very much regret it, as we are now left in an extremely embarrassing condition. To close our transactions with our State department brings no inconvenience to us as manufacturers, as others stand ready and anxious to take all the goods, but as citizens of N. Car. it is painful to us to refuse to work for the State, for such payment as a majority of the Convention seemed to consider sufficiently good for any purpose. Though our feelings as citizens, revolt at the idea of withholding Army supplies, unless we receive from the State in return, funds that are bankable, convertible, and available for the purchase of materials our sense of self preservation leaves us no other alternative. We might work up our present stock and let the State have the cloth, and in the end have our pockets full of Treasury notes, and our mills standing idle for want of material, nearly all of which must be brought from beyond the limits of the State, and for the purchase of which, these new Treasury notes, unless bankable and convertible, will avail us nothing.

In ordinary circumstances we have sufficient confidence in ourselves to act promptly and decidedly, but in this case we confess ourselves at fault, and feel a longing to advise with some persons in whom we have unbounded confidence. In all our circle of acquaintances we could find none but you two gentlemen, from whom we could hope to be satisfactorily enlightened. In addition to your mature judgments and long experience, your position as members of the Convention must enable you to comprehend the present state of things more correctly than those less favorably circumstanced.

Our intercourse with the Quartermaster department leaves no room for complaint, and we are satisfied that the officers are willing to do all they can to supply us with available funds, but the late action of the Convention leaves them powerless. For our part we are anxious to do our full part, and are willing to make heavy sacrifices for our country in her present critical position but we doubt whether the closing of our mills in the manner above pointed out, would benefit the country any, whilst at the same time it would be very disastrous to ourselves. Now we think you have the case, and we sincerely hope that you may point out to us the way in which we may reconcile our views as manufacturers with our feelings and earnest desires as citizens of the State.

We will delay giving the Quartermaster our ultimatum until we hear from you which we must beg to be at as early a time as you can make it convenient. There is another matter of far minor importance on which we would hardly trouble you separately, but which, as we have your attention we would mention. A large (proportionably) number of the men in our employment volunteered last summer and more would have gone if thereby it would not have been rendered almost impossible to keep running. Now since the probability of a draft is being mooted, we again hear some speak of volunteering before they would stand a draft. The Governor has indeed given some directions with regard to persons thus employed, but we see some taking ground that the Governor has no power to exempt any man or class of men. On this point we have no opinion. A word from you would enable us to satisfy our people as to what they have to expect.

This is certain—that without hands, mills cannot be run, and unfortunately they are so scarce in this country that if we lose certain ones we have, we cannot fill their places.

This applies to the men employed in flouring mills, as well as to those that work in wool, cotton, or iron.

Respectfully

FR. FRIES

H. W. FRIES

My bad health forbids my leaving home or the importance of the matter would have taken me to Raleigh to see you in person.

FR. FRIES.

From William S. Ashe.

THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

Received at Raleigh Feby 8th 1862 at 12 o'clock 35 minutes.

By Telegraph from Richmond 8th To Judge Ruffin

The Danville-Connection-Railroad bill has passed. Congress leaving it optional with the President to connect with N. C. R. R. Let our Convention pass a bill to the same effect

W. S. ASHE

From John M. Morehead.

RICHMOND 10th Feb. 1862

Your esteem^d favor with the check for \$200, to buy the watch was recd. and the joyous intelligence of the Passage of the Rail Road Char-

ter was most acceptable. On the same day we pass^d, the Bill for the same purpose appropriating \$1,000,000 to be expended in such way as the Prest. may direct—which is now a law so the Greensboro and Danville connection is now a fix^d fact and I congratulate *you* on it; for when finished it will take you some three hours to go to Dan and see how the crop is growing, and if needs be—go home the same way. Don't you think I may congratulate myself too?

Motion to re-consider was disposed of to day, and the Law was approved by the Prest., and the thing is safe. I will see the Prest. in a day or two and get his views as to the manner in which the Conft. States may be connected with the enterprize.

I got yr. letter on Saturday night, today I looked through the jewelers shops, found watches too high—from \$325. to almost any price—I found one at \$225. that came as near the description you give, as could be desired, but I thought it too high—these watches, no doubt came in under the old tariff; and that with war prices makes them too high. I shall give the subject due attention. I have an old friend who was once a jeweller. I shall get him to look into the matter for me. I can get a very fine watch for the \$200.

I have a friend, one of the first in the city, who may in a few weeks go to Europe for a cargo of goods and run the blockade. If I wished to do what you desire, I think I should send the money by him,—and there is no mistake in him—and you would get a superb article at a small cost. I suggest this for your consideration, in the event I shall not find such a one as I think you desire. In the meantime drop me a line whether, if I deem it best, I shall send by this friend to Liverpool—if he is caught they would hardly confiscate his watch. I shall do what I think best if it meets yr approval. I repeat I can get a very good watch for \$200.

Our city is in gloom—the defeat at Roanoke Island is a calamity the Albemarle and Roanoke are exposed, and I should not be surprised any day to hear the enemy have Weldon.

They have the Tennessee River open to Florence (Muscle Shoals) can take possession of the Rail Roads leading to Memphis, and can pour by Steamers, any amount of men into Florence nearly the heart of Alabama, take possession of all the Roads to Mobile and N. Orleans, and cut off Memphis; reach the Mississippi below there and go on towards N. Orleans, leaving the defences above at Columbus etc. useless. I do not like the indications and our nation was as one—and to the field, as we are in danger. Stirring times may be expected before the Inauguration.

From William K. Ruffin.

AT HOME Feby 14th 1862.

I have been proposing to write you every day this week, but I have had nothing particular to say but that we were all well, and the day wore away leaving as it found me dreaming about the condition of our unhappy country and fighting its battles, and my purpose of writing unaccomplished. The weather to-day is so inclement and gloomy that it will, I hope, prove a relief to have a little conversation with you—and I will begin by telling you what you already probably know, that Jane came to Hillsboro last week and Mama went down on Monday, where she now is and where you will probably be with her tomorrow night. We have heard nothing of Jane, except that she had arrived at H. Mama was perfectly well and in good spirits when she left home, as we should be very glad to hear was the case with yourself, and will thank you to take a moment in order to afford us that pleasure.

Your flock of sheep has increased by one only, and none have died. The fine young cow that you wished might have a *bull* calf, the overseer tells me has one of the other sex. There have not been many days since you were last at home that ploughing was allowable, but whenever the ground was in fit condition, the Overseer has been busily engaged in that operation. He has finished all on this side the River that he wished to plough at present and has been on the other side for several days. He has been running his ploughs. He did expect to finish all that work during this month and seed his oats also, but as that will of course depend upon the contingency of good weather, he may be disappointed. I advised him to sow the oats first, as soon as the land is sufficiently dry as the corn land might be ploughed when it was too wet to put in oats, but he does not seem inclined to do so. He requests me to say that he is making out tolerably with the cutting knife, but there ought to be a new one got, if possible.

Mrs. Taylor and the young ladies are still here, and I believe propose remaining until Mama returns—at least I have heard nothing said about their going, and Alice tells me that Mama gave them an invitation to do so. John Kirkland is also with us, and you will be pleased to hear that his health is much improved and he designs to be with his Regiment at the opening of the Campaign in the Spring.

Jesse has seemed to be very busy in his operations in the garden, but I do not know what he has been doing—which matters little, as he goes to H. tomorrow and you will probably see him there.

I have heard no county news—except that there have been recent indications of decided disaffection to our new government in the Southern part of this county. Dr. Montgomery informed us that he had heard from responsible persons that at a recent constable election, one of the candidates announced himself as still devoted to the union and his sup-

porters voted for him with ballots having on them the Eagle, as emblematic of their attachment to the Union. And still later, we hear that in the same part of the county some of the militia have on the field refused to muster under the Flag of the Confederate States and have defended themselves from arrest with arms in their hands—It may be very imprudent to make public that there is *any* disappointment among our people, but persons who deny it in private are either totally ignorant of the State of feeling in this region of the State or are themselves unsound.

What a terrible calamity has befallen us on our coast? and what worse ones must we expect before the Enemy are driven away? or can they ever be, until the war is closed? Our Fate seems now to depend upon the issues of the next few weeks. I was never in my life more elated than I was for the last day or two with intelligence that we had received of the recognition of our Independence by England and France, but this mornings mail dissipates all hopes in that quarter for the present, and I am utterly despondent.

When, think you, will your labours at R. cease? I wish you were at Home,—I mean, when Mama gets back. I see Gov. Graham has *dodged* the qualifications of an Elector by leaving the language of the old constitution unaltered and of course subject to the same construction And I am sorry to believe the more I think upon the matter, that in his speech upon the Test Oath, he was, under the magnanimous theory of a defence of a weak and inoffensive religious sect, counting the votes of the secret enemies of our institutions and of our independence. But I beg pardon of you, for alluding to public matters, as of them, I suppose, you have enough.

Tom has got nearly well—Sterling's man George has been suffering a good deal with pains in the eye and head, but is quite well again. Hark has been complaining and has required the Dr's attention, but is, I believe better.

All the children unite in assuring you that you have our continued and unceasing veneration and affection.

Judge Ruffin.

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

From Robert R. Bridgers.

RICHMOND, VA.

Feb. 17 1862

The exigency of the times is my apology for making some suggestion for the consideration of your superior judgment.

North Carolina I fear is doomed to play a second part in the new as she did in the old Government.

The States with Commercial centres will command more influence both at home and abroad. If Norfolk, Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, New Orleans, Galveston or Memphis shall fall the reading public in Europe will know where the place is without having to get a map to find it. Many of them are better known than even our State.

The Confederate Government is taxed to her utmost capacity and our State has but little to expect in the way of assistance from it. Other States are considered of greater importance and have more influence. Even in the discussion in private circles in which North Carolinians are not engaged, the Roanoke disaster is discussed more with reference to its effect on Norfolk and Petersburg and Richmond than on North Carolina.

You may rely on it we have to take care of ourselves and the sooner the people and the convention find it out the better.

I will make the following suggestions:

Declare every man a soldier for the war who has in his possession or under his control or knowingly on his premises any public arms that was issued by the State or U. S. and refuse to surrender the same to be exempted on making affidavit that he was ignorant of the Law. When Governor Bragg was acting as aid to Gov. Clarke he told me that he had ascertained from an actual estimate made that since [18]37 more than 20,000 had been given out. I see these old muskets in almost every place I go—pay the sheriff \$1 for each gun collected and 25 cts. for each bayonet. Even this latter provision would collect enough for two or three Regiments.

Order the making of bayonets for shot guns.

Procure the services of Dr. Emmons, Prof. Martin and all other competent persons to go to instruct the people to make salt petre. I understand that the earth under houses, cow and horse manure and many other substances abound in nitre, address circulars to the sheriff and other officers informing them how to make salt petre offer a liberal price and pay 2½ per cent to them for collecting and sending it in. Cause the capacity of the Powder mills at Raleigh and Charlotte to be increased to 5000 each per day. The plans proposed will give a plenty of small arms, such as they are, get the sheriffs and magistrates in each county to collect all the lead—*pay them for it*. Attach to the machine shops of the Raleigh and Gaston Road the N. C. Road Company shops a foundry for making and rifling cannon. they will each cost from \$12,000 to \$18,000.—I mean the establishment at each shop. Thus far my plans involve the expenditure of but little money.

What are we to do for iron? both for the State and for the farmer, one more year with the short supplies of iron will ruin us—hurt us worse than 50,000 troupes in our borders. There are some forges going up on Deep River but I expect if you will examine into the matter the product is already bespoken.

Our only chance is to put up forges foundries and rolling mills. This will cost about \$200,000 and add \$100,000 for the machinery such as can be had for making and repairing small arms. The great difficulty in making small arms is to get the rough barrels which are prepared by rolling mills. If we had plenty of roughs we could make 5000 to 6000 per annum by hand. There is but one rolling mill I understand in the Confederacy. It will with the proper energy take six months to get under head way.

What I have said will apply to the entire State. Build 50 gunboats by permission of the Confederate Government to be turned over to the Government as soon as finished. If the Government will not help Let our State do it. We can go up on the upper Roanoke and the news [Neuse ?] and Cape Fear and up the Rail Roads and get out the timber and afterwards build at Weldon or on the Neuse or Upper Cape Fear as may be best. But they say we have no carpenters. I know we can hunt up two hundred and allot 4 to each vessel. Collect our Carpenters from the army and put them to work on the Gunboats knowing how to use tools there is no difficulty in their application to ship building. Get Capt. Maury to give you the plans. Get the machinery from the Confederate Government untill you can get the rolling mill and machine shops in order. Collect a number of skilful iron mechanics and send them to Richmond to work in the iron establishment to learn to make machinery—if properly selected they will be ready by the time the foundry and rolling mills are ready.

Those who think we cannot get the machinists forget men can learn. While I was in the Legislature I made enquiry for the mechanics skilled in iron work and found more than 100 not in any Rail Road shops.

It may be said we are not able. If you will make the calculation you will find that allowing \$20,000 for each gunboat the price paid by the Confed. Gov. and the other appropriation I suggest added to the expenditures already made they will not amount to the sum to be expended for Rail Roads. We can get the work done on the most of it for state bonds.

If we do not move up the Yankees will whip us, then we shall be in a worse condition than if in debt.

For the Gunboats let me suggest the names of R. L. Myers and Marshall Parks.¹ For the Rolling Mills etc. Will Johnson² of Charlotte Haywood Guion³ of Lincoln and Richard H. Smith of Halifax.

All the appropriations required will not be more than double the amount of bonds to be used for the Coal Fields and Raleigh Rail Road. If the convention will not build the gunboats try the other matters. This war will not end in three years without foreign intervention and

¹ President of the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal Company.

² Johnston was notable as a railroad builder, and was at this time commissary general of the State.

³ This was also in recognition of service in railway promotion.

unless we alter we shall be badly whipped. I am willing to do any thing—even it were to turn a day laborer.

P. S. If the war end sooner the Gov will buy the ship lumber. The rifles made at Fayetteville were some barrels brought from Harpers Ferry.

From Thomas R. Roulhac.

HILLSBORO MILITARY ACADEMY,
HILLSBOROUGH, N. C. Feb 19th 1862.

I have determined to address you again upon the subject of enlisting in the army. I was perfectly willing to go to school as long as I thought that my Country could go through this struggle without what little help I was capable of offering but now I think Sir my mite is needed and I think that under the present circumstances every person, (Man or Boy) capable of bearing arms ought to raise his arm, (strong or weak) in defence of his Country and I am able to bear arms and at this time I think my age ought to be of little consequence. My education will be of no use if we are to be the slaves of those base minions of Lincolnism and I think that now is the time for every person to come forward and strike for his country. I ask to go in the Artillery Company now forming in this town, it is the most gentlemanly crowd that I can go in, I will mention a few of the persons already into it Dr. Cameron Dr. Cain, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Walker Anderson, Dr. Curtis's two sons and Mr. Webb's two sons. I presume these Gentlemen are enough to show you that it is the best set that I can go in and the Artillery is decidedly in even my own experience the lightest and least fatiguing branch of the Service.

* * * * *

[P. S.] Please answer soon.

From William S. Ashe.

THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

Received at Raleigh Feby 20. 1862 at 11 o'clock, 20 minutes.

By Telegraph from Richmond 20th To Hon T. Ruffin

If the Military bounty is withheld from recruits to the Regiments of State troops now in the Service the Companies whose ranks are now thined cannot be filled up. Do try to have the bill amended in this respect every Company should be made to Contribute its quota in defence of the State. News of my last dispatch confirmed.

W. S. ASHE

From George Washington.

GULF, CHATHAM Co N. C.

My Dear Sir:

Feby 27th 1862.

I received to day the rich and beautiful present, which you requested my brother to transmit to me, together with the accompanying note of the 24th inst. The appearance of the one and the tenour of the other filled me with grateful surprise that you should so highly estimate the small service that circumstances enabled me to render you. But hereafter I too shall value those circumstances as they have occasioned me the manifestation of such kind regard from one so much esteemed.

I will accept the Watch, my Dear Sir, for the sake of the giver, and cherish it as a memento of one whom I learned to venerate in early youth, as most eminent among the great and good of our land.

Yours most Resp and most Obligated,

Hon: Thomas Ruffin
Raleigh N. C.

GEO. WASHINGTON

From Robert Strange.

WILMINGTON

March 3rd 1862.

At the request of Judge French¹ I write to obtain your opinion,—if you have no objection to expressing it—whether if he accepts a commission in the army he will be compelled to resign his office of Judge? The Judge has been solicited to go into the service and he feels satisfied that by doing so he could induce many others to enter the service and in that way effect some good for the cause, he has assurances that he could raise a regiment for the war, but he is willing to take command of a company if he can do so without resigning his office. In taking command of a portion of North Carolina's quota is it anything more than having a command of a portion of the militia ordered into actual service? There will be no Spring Circuit. Judge French rides the Edenton Circuit in the fall, and in all human probability no courts can be held there for some time to come.

The spirit of volunteering is fully aroused down this way. We have already twenty companies in the service, on yesterday the drafted men of the upper regiment arrived here numbering only 120 men there being but 360 between the ages of 18 and 50 left upon the roll today 119 of the 120 volunteered for the war leaving but 241 men between the ages of 18 and 50 at home the lower regiment has scarcely that number left.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

¹ Robert S. French, of Robeson County, judge of the Superior Court from 1860 to 1865.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

PRIVATE

POPLAR MT. 11th, March, 1862.

From a letter recd. yesterday dated the 7th, from Genl. Jeff. Green¹ at Richmond, where he has been for several weeks, I give you the following extract. "I am informed from the most reliable sources, that Genl. Banks, with 40,000 men, has crossed the Potomac and pressing Genl. Jackson, with only 7,000, at Winchester. We are sending him aid from Manassas, thus weakening that point. When it is expected McLelland will make another flank movement on the East of Bull run, with a heavy column: while Burnside, with 60,000, will occupy Plymouth and come to City Point, and march upon this City and Petersburg." He then speaks of the excitement—"alarm"—in Richmond and apprehensions for the safety of these Cities—and suggests if they fall, our army would be forced to fall back on the *south* Bank of the Roanoke.

You know the writer and are able to form a just estimate of his opinions. Whether they are mere surmises, originating from a distempered and unbalanced mind or formed upon reasonable probabilities. At any rates he furnishes matter for speculation, and while I think it not within the range of probability that the enemy will be able to occupy Richd. *especially since the new line of policy adopted by the administration, of a purely defensive character*, yet in case of such a calamity we shall have cause to fear that the Roanoke would become a good and important strategic Point, upon which we would have to rely for southern safety. In such an event, I should have to *weigh well* the responsibility resting upon me of calling the Convention. In this connection permit me to remind you of your promise to advise me in case of any emergency requiring my action in this regard, and to *entreat* you to punctually. I know you will candidly, comply with it.

Do not believe, I am under any sort of Panic, or that I am driven from my propriety, *far from it*. On the contrary, our prospects seem better than at any former Period. I am much cheered in the belief that the administration is at last awakened to the true line of policy. It now sees the necessity of laying Virginia Pride upon the Shelf and occupying a *purely defensive line* by withdrawing our troops, from the Pctomac and forming a line on the south Bank of the Rappahannock, and the Rapidan—thus concentrating our forces into an almost impregnable phalanx. If we will add to this, the withdrawal of our forces from the No. E. Counties up to or near the Eastern line of the Wilmington Road, and issuing a proclamation commanding all loyal Citizens to come within our lines and denouncing as alien enemies all who

¹ Thomas Jefferson Green, of Warren, an alumnus of the University, who had been a member of the legislatures of North Carolina, Florida, California, and Texas. He had also been a member of the Congress of the Republic of Texas and a brigadier-general in its army.

do not, with other auxiliary measures, I would feel that we could defy Lincoln, and all his barbarous Hordes. Tennessee too should fall back to the N. C. line, retaining only so much of her Territory as would save Memphis and the lower Mississippi. I set down to write you a long letter—but my good neighbors are constantly coming in and are waiting while I write.

Your letter about the whiskey is to hand, and your performance is so excellent, I am grieved to think I have not *such* an agent to make all my purchases these hard times. The \$25 saved to me should be charged to Profit to loss, to be paid only in N.C. Treasury Notes at their depreciation. The only Coin I can now pay in is my most hearty thanks for this and the numerous other favors done me by you.

In great Haste (Errors excepted)

Write me.

To Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.

Graham, N. C.

From J. G. Moore to Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

COMPANYS SHOPS March 17th 1862.

Your Brother Brown brought us good news to day. Price killed and wounded about 15000 and took prisoners 15000, took 35000 stand of arms the equipment of the entire army. There is now in Charlotte 40000 stand of arms in Goldsboro 25000 for our use.

Gatlin has been removed and the Government has sent us another in his place the above news I get from your brother—tell your brother William not to get the blues—hope you are all well.

I write in haste.

From R. M. Abbott.

March 17th 1862.

Mr. Ruffin. I drop you a few lines to let you no how I am getting on in the World theas troublesom times I reckon you are aware that every boddy is behind hand with there farming opperrations as there has bin but verry little wether fit to work this winter I have Just got dun soing oats and made a little beginning in my corn land to prepar for planting. I have nearly got my new ground hild up. my tobacco plants came up two forward and got kild last week in that cold spell so they will be shure to be late now, but i think it woud be a good thing if there was nun raised during the War if the saim land was put in bred stuff, well to change the subject when I wrote to you in January I told

you that I had sold the lugs off of the new crop of tobacco. I have since sold the entier crop and the old crop also I get for the first quality \$6.50 cents for the second grade 3.50 for the lugs 2.00 the old crop I get 3.75 it is low figers, but the old crop as you remember was badly hil beatten and is nothing more than lugs Major Bethel get it the lugs is cash the ballance is credit til Christmas. We are all well except Henry he has ben laid up ever since the week after Christmas. Well Mr. Ruffin I want you to write me word soon what to do about getting some salt. I am about out and I cant get any about hear and I dont no what to do about it. I thought maby you could get some from some sorse I have written all I can think of at present your friend

R. M. ABBOTT

You can get 15 bushels more of peas if you want them.

From John A. Gilmer.

GREENSBORO, N. C.

March 20th 1862.

I bought Mr. Edwards crop of wheat, warranted to be marketable at \$1.50 per bus. delivered at Ridgeway. I received a letter from him this morning, in which he says he has shipped the crop in three lots.

1st Lot	wheat	54213	lbs.—	903.33	bushls.
2	“	26618	“ —	443.38	
3	“	10324	“ —	172. 4	
Agrt.		91155	“ —	1519.15	

I received a letter by the Same mail from R. T. Nutt the agent at Haw River Mills in which he says “I have received 760 bus 28 lbs of your wheat. The first lot of 309. bus 21 lbs. is a first rate lot of wheat, the second lot of 277 bushels 56 lbs and the last lot of 173 bus. 11 lbs is not so good. It is mixed with red and some of it is damaged. There is a good deal of rotten wheat in it, and it is musty. The wheat is all in garners and the bags returned as you directed. The quality of the 2 last lots of wheat is not what I expected it to be.”

The balance of the wheat is in transition on the Rail Road to Haw River Mills.

If it would not be asking too much of you, and it can be convenient I would be under great obligation to you to call at the Haw River Mills and examine the wheat, and I shall be more than pleased that you shall be able when we meet in Raleigh to assure Mr. Edwards and myself that Mr. Nutt is mistaken. I have paid Mr. Edwards for all except the last lot mentioned by him 172 bus. 15 lbs.

I know this is asking too much, but you would by this trouble much please two good friends.

If I were Govr. Clark I would drive the enemy from Newbern. Every Rifle in the State, should in one week be used against them. We can drive them from that point. It ought to be done. There never will be a more favorable opportunity to shew the enemy the true spirit of the South, and to set an Example of our settled determination never to surrender—and that our conquest is an impossibility.

If the spirit shown by our Youth at the commencement of the war had been allowed to have its swing, today we would have been better off. We have been too confident. We have permitted ourselves to rest too much on our laurels. We certainly now see the folly of delay. We have to fight and fight bloody fights, and with one heart and united soul, and our whole strength we must at once begin, and hold on until we make good our independence, or sink in one common grave.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 23d, Mar. 62.

I have just recd. a letter from our friend Gilmer, advising me of the delivery at Haw River Mills, of about half of the wheat sold him (760 Bus.) and that the miller writes him, that "The first lot is first rate, the 2d and last is not so good, it is mixed with red and some of it is damaged, there is a good deal of rotten wheat, and it is musty." Why this difference in the 3 lots I cannot tell—all having recd the same treatment. My overseer (he has my entire confidence) says it was put up in dry order in dry bags—that he never took greater pains in preparing a crop for market—and that doubtful parcels were laid aside, if such were discovered, that it was good wheat, and not funky, it was run through the fan three times, the small grains etc. left were 162 Bus. The R.R. Agent, says it was not damaged at Ridgeway and was sent off dry and in good order, but suggests, it might have been injured in its detention at Raleigh; lying in the Cars. I have not sowed red wheat for 15 years and have selected my seed with care. Difference in color results from the character of the soil—red land does not produce as bright grains as other soils. My land, you know, is checkered. The various lots, upon delivery weighed at the depot an average of 63 lb pr Bus., it must have been dry to do this, and also good. You see this thing gives me some concern. Wheat is of no value to me when weighed against *fair dealing*. I have written Gilmer, that all shall be right, even if necessary to make *him sole Arbitrator*.

He writes and asks, that I would request you to visit the Mill (I suppose it is close to you) and examine the wheat. You will oblige me by doing so. I have no doubt you will be able to detect the causes of the injury—if injury there be.

I am sorely mortified at the aspect of affairs down about Kinston and Newberne. Surely the resources and Power of N. C. are sufficient to expel Burnside from our soil and drive him back to his shallow Crafts, and thus save our good old state from this loathsome humiliation which the present state of things brings with it. It seems to me, worse than folly to attempt to defend unimportant points, and exposing our men to be cut up, by detail. If we will only contract our line of defense and concentrate our forces, safety will be guaranteed, and triumph is certain in the end. The good Book says—"He that hastens to be rich shall not be innocent"—so that People that *hastens* to triumph against such odds may sin and invite disaster. A war of endurance strongly commends itself to our adoption.

The whiskey is to hand—thanks to you! No bill came with it.

Kindest regards to Mrs. R. in which Mrs. E. joins me. Excuse the trouble this letter gives you, it is not of my seeking.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Snr.

Graham, N. C.

[Endorsed: 403 Bus. of wheat were deld. at Ridgeway in Feby.]

From E. B. Withers.

CAMP RUFFIN VA.

March 30th 1862.

Mr. Ruffin

Excuse the manner in which I address you, but I feel that I lose some of the feelings of respect and esteem I always entertained for you when I address you by any other than that of "Mr." As you very well know I have long since determined to remain in the service and I desire to obtain, if possible, a position in the army which I can fill to the satisfaction of my Superior officers and I respectfully request you to use your influence to procure for me the office of adjutant, if consistent with your feelings of propriety and duty. You know me and my qualifications as well as the duties of the office. Now if you can, with all this information to guide you, give me your influence, I can assure you that no one will be more grateful than I.

Very truly

Your friend,

E. B. WITHERS.

*From Burgess S. Gaither.*¹

RICHMOND

1 April 1862

I have the pleasure to acknowledge your favour of the 25th ulto, informing me, that, the letter addressed by the committee charged with the investigation of the Roanoke Island, disaster, to Genl. Gwynn, had been forwarded to you. I did not know Genl. Gwynn's post office and gave my letter to him to the care of Genl. Gatlin. Genl. Gwynn was in the city, when I wrote but I was not aware of that fact. Fortunately, I afterwards met him in the streets, and gave him another copy of the interrogations, which he is now replying to.

This investigation is taking a wide range into the causes and circumstances of the capitulation of that Island, and the committee have taken a great deal of testimony. I think we will have no difficulty, in determining the causes to be the want of the necessary defences upon the Island and the adjacent waters, the proper armament and insufficient number of men, but who is responsible for this great neglect, is a more difficult question. The Island was within Genl. Gatlin's division at first and then Genl. Hill had it assigned to his Brigade, and then Genl. Branch relieved him, and upon the 21 December, a distinct Brigade was made including that Island and all the territory embracing the Albemarle Sound and its waters, and Genl. Wise assigned to it, with instructions to report to Genl. Hughs, at Norfolk, So you will observe, that no one of the respective officers, are responsible, but for a short time, and in fact, none of them but Genl. Hill and Genl. Wise, have ever taken much interest in the post. Neither Gatlin, Branch or Hughs, has ever been there Genl. Hill, would have put the Island in a state of defense, if he had have been let alone, and I have no doubt Genl. Wise, would have done the same thing, if he had have had time to have done so before the attack. The committee have made a full investigation of all the circumstances attending the capitulation, and I am very happy to say to you that our troops have been most shamefully slandered. Col. Shaw and his whole command acted in a manner entirely creditable to themselves and the state, and was compelled to surrender when overwhelmed, by numbers. They fought the enemy on the 8th of February, at the only breastworks or redoubt, upon the Island for five hours, with only three small pieces of artillery, and numbering less than one thousand men. in fact not more than five hundred could be brought into action behind the miserable little breastwork. The enemy numbering at least fifteen thousand, with six pieces of heavy artillery, well armed and equipped finally succeeded in flanking them on either side with a large force, and they were compelled to spike their guns and retreat five miles to the northern end of the Island, where there were

¹ Burgess S. Gaither, of Burke, a member of the Confederate Congress.

no transports provided to take them from the Island and when the enemy pressed on and surrounded them at their camp, the surrender was made, we having lost some 23 men killed and 35 wounded, the enemy's loss upwards of 900 killed and wounded. Thus you will see we lost no honor, and might have saved all of our men, if means of escape had have been furnished. I have been thus particular for the reason, that I know you feel as every true North Carolinian must feel a deep interest in this matter. I am very anxious to get our report made before the adjournment, but fear, we will not, from the fact, that the responsibility is likely to rest upon either Genl. Hughs, Genl. Wise, or the Secretary of War or the President, or probably to some extent upon them all and there is a good deal of testimony yet to take. The House has passed a resolution to take a week from the 7 of this month to the 1 July. The Senate has not yet acted upon the proposition of the House and it is probable the time will be extended. The news here, is nothing more than you see in the daily papers of this city. The President and his cabinet keep their own secrets and it is difficult to get behind the curtain, or to find out any contemplated move. The President does things pretty much in his own way, without consulting any one, and takes the responsibility upon himself and has given us a cabinet which is not satisfactory to the country. I fear that the whole concern is not equal to the magnitude of the crisis. I am not impressed with the ability of either branch of Congress, and do not feel, that we have the men here to ride upon the whirlwind and direct the storm, We need all the great men of the nation here who have the confidence of our people, to give energy and power to this mighty struggle for freedom. I hope however, if our people, our masses, will stand firm and not give way, we will yet weather the storm. I hope you will pardon me for writing you so long a letter, I feel the importance of the occasion and sometimes say more than I would in cooler moments.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

From William S. Ashe.

WILMINGTON N. C.,

1. April 1862.

Please direct and deliver to some person in your county, who will faithfully and diligently execute the same, the enclosed commission. Your active cooperation in this matter will materially aid the government and will confer a favor.

[ENCLOSURE.]

WILMINGTON N. C. April 2nd, 1862.

Mr. _____

Dear Sir:

Under a letter of instructions given to me by the War Department of the Confederate States, I appoint you a Special Agent to collect Arms, either by loan or purchase, and if necessary by impressment. Also, to purchase Iron, Copper or Brass, all of which is intended for the defense of North Carolina. You are authorized to receipt for such Arms as may be loaned or donated, which will be returned at the close of the war, or an equivalent will be paid; or to pay for good Rifles or Muskets from \$15 to \$22; for good double barrell Shot Guns, from \$15 to \$40 in each case according to quality; other arms according to valuation. For Scrap Cast Iron, 1½ cents per lb.; Copper and Brass, current rates. Your compensation will be for Arms, 50 cents each, for any number under 500; over 500 and under 1,000, 75 cents; over 1,000 \$1, and for Copper, Iron and Brass, 5 per cent will be paid on all purchases.

You are requested to use all possible diligence, that we may bring into service all the arms we can, as the wants of our Government are pressing, and we cannot aid more effectually than by prosecuting this work with energy.

Yours respectfully,

Alamance Co.

.....

Major Quartermaster's Department.

Take receipts for all your purchases, and draw on me for Amt.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO Thursday April 3rd 62.

Your kind note (the first in a long time) to Anne, offering us a lot of 8 or 10 bushels of seed potatoes to hand this morning, and as she was about to set out on a visit to her looms, her houses, and truck patches at the plantation, she instructed me to *thank* you for your kind remembrance of her and her little ones, and to send Wilson up with his Cart, that they may be brought down with the best despatch and certainty.

He is therefore sent up with his cart, and to place Mrs. Ruffin in possession of the barrel of Sugar set aside for her out of Hhd from New Orleans *that* is placed on his Cart with all proper charges as to its safe delivery. I hoped to get 5½ barrels of Sugar from the Hhd, but got

only 4—the barrel sent you I have had weighed by Strayhorn who reports the weight through Duncan to be 248½ lbs.

* * * * *

Nothing of interest to give you—No. Ca. will be held I think against all comers. We are planting largely of Corn peas potatoes and seed-ing large crops of Flax. I would like to be with you all a day and when the way is open to me will see you.

From William S. Ashe

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

WILMINGTON
April 13th. [1862]

I have flattered myself with the pleasure of transacting the business of this letter by making a visit to your hospitable mansion but circumstances have prevented me. The Wilmington and Weldon railroad company hold a considerable number of the bonds of our state, which bonds they are desirous to sell, and indeed, if our Directors declare a spring dividend, they will be compelled to sell. We have been informed that the commissioners of the sinking fund will have, on or before the first of July next money on hand to invest, and that they prefer the purchase of State bonds to any other mode of investment. If we have been rightly informed on these points we would be glad you could let us know at your earliest convenience if you will be prepared to purchase on or before the first of July, and on what terms you are willing to purchase. The making of the Spring dividend by our Company depends in a considerable degree upon our ability to sell the other State bonds at a fair value and as the State is large stockholder in the company, we think the commissioners will be promoting her best interest by purchasing from us such an amount of bonds as they may be prepared to buy. With high respect and most sincere wish for your health and happiness.

I remain yours truly

W. S. ASHE
Pres^t. of W. W. R. R. Co.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

From Walter Gwynn.

RICHMOND VA. April 15th, 1862

You will no doubt be surprised to hear that I am still afflicted as I was at your house last fall. My disease was misunderstood by the

Physician in N. C. or perhaps it would be more proper to say that the remedies greatly aggravated my symptoms which proved to be an affection of the kidneys, I have been here three months—in the hands of a very skilful physician—but my improvement has been very slow. If I could have undergone the expence I would have been in “the Gala” long since. Though unfit for active military duty, I am still capable of Rail Road service, and as the spring opens I find myself becoming very restless—though the Rail Road from the N. C. R. R. to the coal fields is a small affair, I would like very much to be employed on it until my health is restored. You will oblige me by ascertaining what the views of the persons most prominent in getting up this enterprise may be in relation to the employment of an Engineer. I propose visiting Raleigh as soon as the weather settles and would go on at any time in connection with *the Rail Road*.

About 40,000 troops have passed here within the last ten days for Yorktown. McClellan is “laying a regular siege,” and in a very short time a desperate battle is expected.

Judge Thomas Ruffin
Raleigh N. C.

From John W. Brodnax.

NEAR KINSTON

May 3rd. 1862.

We are still a few miles below Kinston surrounded by marshes and pine trees with as yet no prospect of an advance from the enemy and about all other matters connected with the war you have a great deal better information than we ever get here in which I expect you are better informed of what is going on here than I am for outside of the details of my business I know but little that is doing, Gen Ransom ¹ being a man to keep his own counsel and as I am only at Head Quarters at my meals and night many things occur that I never hear off. We have a fight on a small scale down below now and then and a few Prisoners are brought up. But all I have seen are surly and but little disposed to talk about their own army. There is a prevailing opinion here that there are not a great many soldiers at New Berne, that most of them have ben moved off to some other point. But I believe that except for the effect which it ought have in cheering our people up, the retaking of it is not considered of any use in a Military point of view.

Gen. Branch has or is now leaving Kinston with his Brigade for Va. to exactly what point I dont know he is ordered to Richmond. I

¹General Robert Ransom, Jr.

hear he has two very fine regiments with him, Lee's ¹ and Campbell's. ² The former is said to be a splendid officer—cool and courageous and has the entire confidence of his regiment the latter is a fine officer and is spoken of very highly but he has one failing which you know. There are two other Regiments in the Brigade, Lane's ³ and a newly elected man. I have heard nothing of Lane's but understand the latter was very much demoralized by the selection of officers as they turned out a first rate officer Col. Radcliff. ⁴ I suppose the only objection to him was his disposition to do his duty.

We had the election of this Brigade—there was no change made in but two as to their Cols. Sloane's ⁵ Old Regiment elected a Col. Cook ⁶ a brother in law of Gen. E. B. Stewart his father in the Northern Army. Cooke was elected on the recommendation of Gen. Ransom. No man in the Regiment having ever seen him—he is here and I understand gives general satisfaction to his Regiment. Col. St. Clair ⁷ was *Beaten Unanimously* by Lt. Col. Mat Ransom much to the joy I believe of every body in the Brigade, for he was a complete Bag of wine and whiskey. When he could get the latter he was certainly one of the most disagreeable men I ever saw. He was constantly at Head Quarters to ingratiate himself with Genl. Ransom, and so far from effecting his object I believe he sunk himself in the estimation of every one every visit he made.

We have a very large Brigade six regiments 2 cavalry companies independent and five artillery companies. The Gen. is very industrious and untiring in trying to perfect his Brigade and now that the elections

¹ Charles C. Lee, a graduate of West Point in 1856 who left the United States Army in 1859 to become commandant of the North Carolina Military Institute. He was chosen Lieutenant colonel of the Bethel Regiment upon its organization, colonel in September, 1861, and colonel of the thirty-seventh in November, 1861. He was killed at Frazier's Farm, June 30, 1862.

² Reuben P. Campbell, of Iredell, colonel of the seventh Regiment, a graduate of West Point and veteran of the Mexican War. He was killed at Cold Harbor, leading his regiment, with its colors in his hands.

³ James H. Lane, colonel of the twenty-eight Regiment, later a brigadier general. Like Lee he had been, at the outbreak of the war, a teacher in the North Carolina Military Institute.

⁴ James D. Ratcliffe, colonel of the eighteenth Regiment, had been principal of a military school in Wilmington for some years before the war. He was commissioned a major of engineers in 1861 and the next year became colonel of the sixty-first Regiment.

⁵ John A. Sloan, of Guilford.

⁶ John R. Cooke, a son of General Philip St. George Cooke of the United States Army, was a native of Missouri. He was commissioned lieutenant in the United States Army in 1858, resigned in 1861 when Virginia seceded, and after staff duty was elected colonel of the twenty-seventh North Carolina Regiment. He was promoted to brigadier general in November, 1862.

⁷ Rev. James Sinclair, colonel of the thirty-fifth Regiment. When elected to that position in 1861 he was chaplain of the fifth Regiment. He was accused of cowardice in the battle of New Bern and after his defeat for re-election deserted the Confederate cause and joined the Union Army as a chaplain. He was a notorious figure in Reconstruction.

are over and everything has quieted down he is bringing them up and I think will soon have a very efficient Brigade. Travis¹ is here and is very well. He came off a scout about a week ago but did not have the fortune of meeting with any of Yankees whilst he was gone. I have received but one letter from Haw River since I came down and that was from Nannie last week if you have please let me hear how they are in your reply.

There is a mare at your plantation, the get of Blucher the horse that Sterling sold to Tom Cain. I stand very much in need of another horse and if she has not been put to the horse I would be glad to send another horse over to work in her place and get her if she would suit. Let me hear from you soon as I stand in need of some things near home and am only waiting to get a horse up there for Fred. to come down and bring it. I wrote to Mr. Cameron knowing that he raised good horses to know if he would not sell me a horse if he had a good horse that would suit me but have heard nothing from him although it has been over two weeks and I have received a letter from Becca since my letter reached Hillsboro.

Where is Uncle. I do not see his name recorded as voting in the Convention and I suppose he is not in Raleigh and as I have not had a word from home since here I have been I do not know his whereabouts or I would write to him.

Where is Tom Ruffin. Gen Ransom wrote to him to accept a position on his staff as volunteer aid but he has not had one word from him in reply. I wrote to him at the same time but have not a word from him. I saw Scott the agt. at the Graham Station in Goldsboro and he informed me that Tom was sick, but Nanny said nothing of it in her letter. . . .

Remember me kindly to my Fathers old Friend Mr. Edwards.

I have inflicted a much longer letter on you than I had intended when I commenced. But I flattered myself that you would read with some interest any thing coming from one who has at your hands received at all times and under all circumstances so much kindness and affection. My kindest regards to John when you see him. I am getting on pretty well in my new business and hope as I get matters arranged that I will do better still.

[P. S.] Direct to Goldsboro Care of Gen. Ransom.

From A. W. Price.

May 6th 1862.

Dear Sir I thought I would write to you to see if I could get any information about this conscription Law whether you think we will

¹ Edward Travis Brodnax, first lieutenant, Co. D. sixty-third Regiment.

actually be called out on the 17th of this Month that is the report about here that we will be called out at that time. And I want to get your advice it is not my wish to leave you but I want to know the consequences so I can make some arrangements for my Family owing to the condition of my family you know it would sute me as little to leave as any other man therefore I am willing to do any thing as far as my circumstances will admit to stay with my family and if you think there is any chance for me to get off I should like for you to let me know as soon as you can.

From John W. Brodnax to William K. Ruffin.

May 9th 1862.

Dear William

I received your letter on yesterday and although I have nothing of interest to write yet I hope by answering to show you that your letters are appreciated and that they may not in future be forced out of [you] by threats of not writing again. Write often as you now know what a pleasure it is for us who is tied down to one spot to receive a letter from friends away. I make it a rule to burn up all my letters as soon as read and if I dont answer all of your questions you will ask them over again.

In the first Place about my situation here. I have been commissioned as Major and am commissary to the Brigade and as to my business except that it keeps me pretty closely confined and pretty constant at my post I cant say that there is anything disagreeable about it. There is more anxiety about the position than a commissary for a Regiment as I have here now about 7000 men to feed whereas they have only about 1000 and look to me for all of their provisions. If the division commissary would provide me with all of my provisions as is his duty, I would be very pleasantly situated but I have to buy from 30 to 40 thousand dollars worth of Provisions a month and that has to be hunted up. You nor Sterl either sent any word about any person I would employ in your county to buy provisions. I wish you would tell Sterl to say to the merchants at Graham that I will take anything in the way of eating that they can buy Meat Peas and to buy me *all of* the Soap they can as the army is standing very much in need of it.

When I came down Gen Ransom offered me either Com. and Quartermaster as I knew nothing about the duties of either I told him so, but that if he thought I could do either I would take either he might assign me. He assigned me the Com., because as he said it was in the worst order. I felt somewhat squally when he said that but took hold and for a month have succeeded in issuing provisions regularly whereas before they never had been issued a single time regularly. We have a

pretty clever mess, some of them you know Ed. Brodnax is aid Jno. S. Ashe, Brother of Sam, is drillmaster for the Artillery. A young man by the name of Eure¹ is in Ordinance and Simmons² that used to be at Weldon is the Quarter master for the Brigade and we have an volunteer aid, a man by the name of Mason³ and Victor C. Barringer⁴ is adjutant. Say to Mama I am very much obliged to her for her kind offer to send us down some thing to eat, send us anything but Bacon. If she has it and will cook it a leg of mutton will be very acceptable and we would be glad to have some vegetables and anything else she may think proper to send—send by express to Goldsboro and we have [a] man that goes up every day and will bring it down for us; if you let me know a day or two before when to expect it.

This is the poorest country I ever saw for living. Ask Mama if she has more potatoes than she wants will she please send me some. Say to the children to give much love and many kisses that I will write to them in a day or so. Tell Nanny I received her letter and that she must keep up writing once every week. I intended writing to her today but I started this letter yesterday and have been so busy ever since that I could not finish it. Travis left this morning he is going to join John Galloway⁵ in a company of Rangers⁶ with the recommendation of Gen. Holmes. Peter Evans⁷ is Capt. of one company and John Galloway of the [other]. Turner Morehead⁸ first lieut. of Evans company and Travis is second Lieut in Galloways they are to be back as soon as they can get back and join our Brigade again they start with good prospects of soon being in the field again and I think and hope may do good service and win some glory for the Old State for at present she stands pretty low down from all of the fights in the State all of which comes of having such a weak and inefficient man as Gov. if the Convention had displaced him and put a man of Parts in the chair much of the evil might

¹Lieutenant Mills L. Eure, of Gates County, later a prominent lawyer and judge of the Superior Court.

²Major J. F. Simmons.

³Thomas W. Mason, of Garysburg.

⁴Barringer, at this time, held the rank of major.

⁵John Marion Galloway, of Rockingham, captain of D. Company, Sixty-third Regiment.

⁶The Sixty-third Regiment was organized as a regiment of partisan rangers, but by order of General Lee became a regular calvary organization. It was the Fifth N. C. Calvary.

⁷Peter G. Evans of Chatham. Moore's Roster records him as captain of D. Company of the sixty-third Regiment with which this letter would seem to agree. According to the account in Clark, Regimental History of North Carolina, he was colonel of the regiment from its organization. Moore accords that position to Stephen Evans. Peter G. Evans was killed at Upper-ville, June 21, 1863.

⁸James Turner Morehead, of Rockingham, a son of Governor John M. Morehead, later prominent as a legislator and as a manufacturer.

have been avoided. If Hill for instance had not been sent off to give way to Branch we would have whiped them without a doubt at New Berne for Branch did not make any show where Hill had intended to have fought and it is admitted on all sides if the fight had have been made from Hills position the troops that were at New Berne could have whiped Burnside. But it is said here that Branch was perfectly bewildered and changed the plan of battle several times and consequently got things into confusion that during the fight he would listen to any one that would come up. He's gone with his Brigade to Va. Old Col. Campbell would have been of great service to him during the fight but they say here he was pretty tight. Col. Lea is spoken of in the highest terms for bravery and Soldierly conduct. Love to every body write soon tell Patty to do the same.

Yours truly

JOHN W. BRODNAX.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

CHICAHOMINY RIVER May 15th/62.

I write to ask your aid in getting some clothes for the "Alamance Regulators." They are here without *any thing*, except the few rags that they have on. The evening of the fight they were ordered to deposit their knapsacks, with all their clothes in them, in the woods, and a guard was left with them; but when we came back, they had all been destroyed by some persons, who came across them and took them to be the enemy's. Our company lost *everything*, and the fault was not their's. I have no scruples in begging for them.

Will you please write to Mr. Frank Fries, and beg of him to let me have cloth enough to make a pair of pants a round jacket for each man; I do not know what quantity it will take, but you and Mr. Baron will be able to determine that, either within yourselves or after consultation with the tailors. We want the jackets made round, but to come pretty low. Mr. Boyd, the tailor in Graham, has the measures of all the company, and I expect he can cut the jackets by the coat measures. If he can I wish him to do so but a distinct written contract made with him as to the trimmings etc. I hope the county will furnish the money to buy them at once and I will see it fully repaid when their next clothing money is paid them. Do urge this if you please, for the boys are really suffering.

I have written to Mary asking her to get the ladies to make shirts and drawers for them, and I make the same request of Patty through you.

My dear father, I venture to say that men have never been called on to endure greater hardships than this army has within the last ten days; but they are over now, and we are fast recovering from our fatigue; and the spirit of the men continues unbroken: Indeed it seems to rise higher and higher as their trials grow heavier and heavier. Never did boys

behave like the Alamance boys in the fight at Williamsburg, as cool and determined as possible. Not one man flinched.

The sickness in our camp is awful and grows daily. From 960 our regiment is cut down to not over 420 men: nor is our regiment alone but all except the potomac army are suffering alike. This shows the virtue there is in discipline and training.

I have written to Gov. Clark tendering my resignation as Judge¹ though I hope you had done so for me, before. I must confess that I laid down the robes with some regret, as it is an honorable position and one for which I had striven for many years past; but I felt it to be my duty and I made the sacrifice without hesitation. In fact I have never been reconciled, in my own conscience, in quitting the army. No. Carolina has been a generous State to you and yours, and I could never bear the idea of this war being fought through and no son of yours being in the fight.

I have many sore thoughts about my wife and her little ones. What is to become of them should I be cut off! My dear father I beg you to take care of them. She loves you most sincerely and feels that she will have a protector, in you, in case of my being taken away; and yet she is so diffident and so afraid of being a burden, that she will hardly make her necessities known freely and of her own accord.

Will you give a son's warmest but most heartfelt love to my good old mother! I love her with all my whole heart, and there is not a day or an hour that I do not think most affectionately of her and of her great kindness to her wilfull boy. She alone, of all my kith and kin, did not despair of me when I was young and wild, and her love and forbearance did more to reclaim me than all other causes combined. Please kiss her for me over and over again.

Give my love to each and every member of the family and tell them one and all, that I love them very truly. I hope some one will write to me. In case they do tell them to direct to me to the care of Col. A. M. Scales 13th N. Ca. Regt, near Chickahominy River and inclose in another envelope directed to Messrs. Hill and Norfleet Richmond, Va.

Please let Mary know that you have heard from me, and that I am well, except chills which I have every day, but have gotten so accustomed to them, that I do not mind them at all.

Good-bye my dear father! I know that you will all think of me often and remember me in your prayers.—All has been quiet here today, but our officers give us positive promises of a fight from day to day. When it comes there will be bloody work, but we will whip them.

[Address: Hon. Thomas Ruffin,

Graham, N. Carolina.

Kindness of Mr. Baron.]

¹Governor Ellis in 1861 appointed Thomas Ruffin, Jr., a judge of the Superior Court to succeed Thomas Settle, resigned. Ruffin accepted and held several courts, but, as this letter indicates, soon went back to the army.

From Henry T. Clark.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
RALEIGH, May 19th, 1862.

Yours of the 17th just received and as desired I hasten to apprise you by answer of what can be done for Col. Ruffin's Co.

We have had innumerable applications for orders for cloth from the Factory—for Companies to be made up gratis by friends etc. We have fully satisfied ourselves *by trial* (experience) that it not only will *not* be made as properly or as economical as our Quarter Master's Establishment do, but it breaks up our system and we would soon have no resource for clothing the soldier. It is hardly worth while for a lengthy explanation to satisfy you that we cannot grant orders on Messrs. Fries, for Cloth. But I assure you that actual experience has satisfied us of the impolicy of so doing.

But I will suggest a better plan, for your brave Alamance boys. Let the Ladies and their friends prepare for them such *undercloths* as they need and, for their coats and pants (actually necessary) Let their Captain make a requisition on Richmond and if Richmond cant furnish right off bring the requisition to Raleigh and we will. Let the requisition state the necessity and only that—and let some agent or Quarter Master accompany the order, who can and will take care of the goods on the roads, or else a crowded and difficult state of the freight cars, and the confusion and constant change of Regiment, they may never reach their destination.

However fair and economical your proposition is we cant adopt it but hope we will accomplish yours as well if not sooner and better by ours.

I am most Respectfully

Yrs

HENRY T. CLARK.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

To Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

ALAMANCE—May 21st, 1862.

My very Dear Son

I received your letter by Mr. Baron last Saturday, and on the same day wrote to Govr. Clark for an order on Messrs Fries for the cloth for the Regulators Coats and pantaloons: having learned, that those

gentlemen had repeatedly refused to let any person have cloth without such an order. This morning I have the reply of the Governor, declining to furnish the order, for reasons which seem to me very good. But I annex a copy of his letter,¹ first, that you may judge for yourself of his reasons; and, secondly, that you may see, how the men may get an *immediate* supply, either at Richmond or Raleigh—which is the point of most importance. I have to assure you, that not only I, but all the Ladies and all the men of the neighbourhood feel the utmost interest in and sympathy for our brave boys. All were so alert to supply their wants, that if we could have procured the cloth *every body* was ready to go to work and complete the job with very little delay. Mr. John Faucett or I would have gone to Salem, that we might make sure of it, and all our Ladies were desirous of doing all that diligence and patriotism and admiration for the men could prompt or effect. As it was, money was made up in a day to buy materials for shirts and drawers for the Company, and I went up to Mr. Holt's Factory and got them,—and Mary tells me, that by Saturday night enough for the whole Company will be completed; which we propose to commit to the Express Company, to go off Monday morning, in order to insure their safe and speedy transportation to Richmond, we expect Mr. Green Andrews will also go with them, for the purpose of seeing them safe from Richmond to the Camp. But I shall direct him to apply to your agents, Messrs. Hill and Norfleet, at Richmond for directions and assistance in carrying out the purpose of his mission; and I think you had better advise those gentlemen of our intention, that they may be the more inclined and ready to co-operate with us. Let your men know, that *this supply* is the *voluntary* offering of their fellow-citizens, male and female, as evidence of their sense of the noble patience, endurance, and heroism of our men. They will, therefore, not have to account for these things to either Government. If we could have procured shoes and socks, they should be sent also. But they are not on hand and can not be got up in a short time. But, as we shall soon begin to spin wool again, I doubt not every effort will be made to send them socks before long. Having disposed of those matters, I now have to tell you that I see your family nearly every day and hear from them oftener. All's well! Little Mary had slight fever day before yesterday and yesterday: from cutting teeth, probably. But today she seems well, and I found her running about and seeming cheerful and hearty. Mary is as busy as a bee, (and also Mrs. Scott and Mrs. McLean) in cutting shirts and drawers and all seem delighted with their employment. You will get about thirty garments from this house. By the way, I must mention that I could get only about 250 yards of *Checks* for shirts—which Mr. Faucett told us, the men preferred. For the residue we were obliged to use white shirting. Tell the men, we did the best we could, and there-

¹ See Clark to Ruffin, May 19, 1862.

fore we hope, they will be content to make out with what we send. Of course, every one hereabouts have felt the deepest concern for the men engaged in the battle of Williamsburg and most especially for the 13th No. Ca. and the Regulators in particular. Yet we hear no satisfactory details: so that all are quite indignant against the Virginia Editors for their omissions in that regard. The first one who passed from you to us was Capt. Erwin—poor fellow. He certainly did ample justice to the gallantry of his comrades—men and officers, Company and Field. Of course, your friends felt satisfied with what he and others have said of that *day*, excepting only, that your Mother says, that, while she willingly gives you to the Country, she is far from willing the Yankees—the devils from Yankeedom—should get you or destroy you. We hear, that our friend Colo. Scales—(God bless him!) had to rebuke you for exposing yourself too much on the field and that your men threatened to unhorse and tie you, if not more prudent! Now—the utmost coolness, intrepidity, and daring, when necessary either to give confidence and spirit to your own men or to deter the foe, I approve, and wish you should exhibit, whatever the personal peril. But prudence is equally needed for your own safety and your Comrades and men; and we trust that you will not incur the reproach of *rashness* either in exposing yourself or your followers. Your blood and your breath your Country has a right to demand in her *defence*. But she has a right to expect from you due care of your life for her sake, now and hereafter, and also most circumspect care of the good men, whom you lead to a certain extent. God bless them and preserve them, and make them valiant soldiers and servants of our beloved Country. Oh! may her Independence be secured by a heroic and brave People! Your Mother and every member of this Household speak of you often and often every day, and join you with every one and thing, dear to us, in prayers to God. All love you with an affection you ought not to wish more intensified. While we desire and expect that your dear and good wife and innocent little ones should be ever in your heart and memory, I desire you should not for a moment feel any anxiety in any event about their temporal welfare. For, be assured, my dear son, that your children are my children and that Mary is my daughter to the full in every regard while I live and have any thing, *they* shall share certainly, surely.

I wish you would write to me or some of us as often as you can, and write as circumstantially as possible. Defend Richmond to the bitter end, and if the Demons should *burn* it, yet never let them *occupy* it. Harass them day and night, and make them wish themselves back in their infernal regions of abolition. Present my particular regards to Colo. Scales, and tell him, I have known the Scales family for fifty-five years, and that I never heard of but one (among the old ones), that was not thought perfectly *honest*, and not one, who was not *brave* among the brave; and that I expect him to emulate their virtues. May God preserve him and make him a true and heroic Patriot, with many years of

usefulness. Never, either of you, give up *the cause*—never, never; but resist “the Devils” to the bitter end, and, at last, they will flee from you.

With the utmost affection I am, Dear Thomas, Your Father and sincere friend,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

I do not know, that it is quite fair to betray Dr. Montgomery’s secret feelings about taking service again. *He* is willing to go with you. But his neighbours are averse to giving him up, as they have no physician left; and his wife is, of course, very averse to it, and, yet more, his Father in law is bitterly opposed to it. So, he is constrained to decline. Yet I heard him say, that if he was certain, you would accept the Lt. Colonelcy and not command the Regulators, he would feel *bound* to serve as Captain, whatever anybody might wish or say. For myself, I am “in a strait between two”—as I value him as a physician very much and yet more as a friend, while I cannot but feel for the men and wish them a good Captain as well as good Field Officers, and am sure Dr. M. would serve with great credit in any capacity. I think you and Scales had better write him again, and urge his acceptance.

T. R.

[Address:

Lt. Col. Thomas Ruffin
Care of Colo. A. M. Scales,
13th No. Ca. Regt.

In Camp on Chickahominy River,
near Richmond, Va.

To Care of Messrs Hill & Norfleet.
Richmond,

By John Ireland Esq.]

From Henry T. Garnett.

COMPANY SHOPS

Wednesday morning May 21st. '62.

My dear Cousin.

We are packing this beautiful morning for our *journey* to Greensboro, and though writing materials are all safely housed in the innumerable trunks we carry along, you will excuse this pencil return of cordial thanks to you and yr. dear family for the kind hospitalities rendered us during our sojourn in yr. vicinity. Yesterday was a day to us in life redeeming by its pleasures many which like Cato, I admit to have wasted or mispent in the past, and now also I am sped on my way by the gushing influence of yr. friendship so bottled up as to be carried along as a spirited memento of the dear ones at Ruffin Hall.

With a heart full of Kind and Kinfull remembrances we greet you all in an adieu which if circumstances allow shall be of short duration. Wishing you a patriarchal prolongation of years and the continued blessings of Heaven, yr. country and yr. children's children for generations yet to come, I remain my venerated cousin yr. faithful friend and obedient Servant.

H. T. GARNETT.

From William Coullinge.

BANK OF VIRGINIA
DANVILLE VA. May 21, 1862.

Thos. Ruffin Esq.

Dr. Sir.

Having been forced to leave on account of the near approach of the enemy our board thought it proper to send several of the officers and all the money and books to this place. We are consequently unable to furnish your account at this time. The amount to your credit is \$954.79. I will write to Richmond to have your account to time of leaving.

Respectfully Your obt. Svt.

WM. COULLINGE, *Asst. Cashr.*

To John Ireland.

ALAMANCE—May 21st. 1862.

My Dear Sir.

I am advised by my son Thomas, that our friends, who carry things for our Boys of the Regulators, or wish to visit them, will find themselves assisted by calling on Messrs. *Hill and Norfleet* of Richmond, who are the agents of Colo. Scales and the other officers of the Regt. I therefore think it my duty to give you this information, and take the liberty of suggesting to you to call on those gentlemen and letting them know, who you are and what is your errand, and I am sure, you will find those gentlemen willing and able to serve and advise you. I have written to my son and enclosed the letter to Messrs. Hill and Norfleet, and beg your attention to both letters. It may be useful to you to shew this note to those gentlemen.

Wishing you may find your son well and that you may safely return
I remain, Dear Sir,

Your friend and svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Tell the Regulators, that next Monday and tuesday we shall send for
them *Shirts and Drawers for the Company!*

Bring back *good news*, and encourage *our Boys* to scourge the
Yankees well: kill and drive them out!

[Address: John Ireland Esqr.

Company's Shops.]

From Henry K. Nash.

HILLSBORO May 23 1862.

I received your letter this morning and hasten to reply by the evening train. Mr. Cardon who bottomed my chairs is an excellent workman, and put in bottoms equal *almost*, in appearance to the original ones. He makes them out of very narrow splits to resemble the cain. Mine were the first of the sort he ever did; the next time, no doubt, he will do better. He is a well-to-do farmer living seven or eight miles north west from town, and I do not think would go up to your house, but would no doubt do the work, if the chairs were sent here, where he could get them. I will no doubt see him next week here, our Court week, and if you desire it, if you will write to me, will speak to him about it. I do not know what his price is, for he has never seen me about the price of mine, since they were done. Anything I can do for Mrs. Ruffin about them, I will do with pleasure, if you will write and let me know. I am much obliged for your kind invitation, and if nothing intervenes to prevent, will go up to Graham on the Monday of Court, and go down and spend the night with you, and hope to be able to rejoice with you over more important victories, than even the one at New River where Cox and his army were annihilated. I was surprised and sorry to hear a few weeks ago, that you were desponding, as to the result of this barbarous war against us—"Whom the Gods intend to destroy, they first make mad," and if madness has ever seized any people it certainly has our enemies. Who but a madman, the agent of madmen, could for instance, have issued such a proclamation as Butler has, with regard to the women of N. Orleans? But he will find all his orders etc. vain there. Nobler spirits never breathed, nor free-

dom had more devoted friends, than the women of N. Orleans, and Butler may yet find a Charlotte Corday in the land of the Creole.

Remember me most affectionately, if you please, to Mrs. Ruffin and the other ladies. I hope nothing will prevent my spending an agreeable morning with you on the day indicated.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

RICHMOND May 26th 1862.

I cannot express to you my thanks and the thanks of our boys for the trouble you have taken upon yourself, for their accommodation in the way of clothing: We know that what you did was freely done and that but adds to our obligations to you.

I am not willing to adopt the course suggested by Gov. Clark, except in the last extremity. I have seen a good deal of the clothing furnished by the quarter master at Raleigh and assure you that they are dear *at any price*; so badly are they made and so soon do they part asunder. As to getting anything in Richmond it is just out of any one's power—there is not a single article of clothing in the clothing department.

The Governor is much mistaken in his supposition that they can furnish us articles cheaper than we can get them made, as a single case will prove: last fall I got coats and pants for my men at a cost of \$9.10 to each man, while other captains got theirs from Raleigh and their coats (over-coats they both were) alone cost \$19—in addition they were not half so well made:

I had the same difficulty last fall that presents itself now. The Governor most positively refused to give me the order as did adj. Gen. Martin; but I went to Mr. James Sloan, asst. Q. M. at Greensboro (who, by the by, has more sense than anyone in authority in our state whom I have met) and had no difficulty whatever in getting from him the necessary order, which procured me the cloth. Mr. Sloan promised me, then, that I should always have the cloth whenever I wanted it for my company, and I am convinced that he will not refuse me in this emergency: At least I desire to make the effort in that direction, especially as Mr. Boyd tells me that, knowing how I succeeded before, he made a similar effort, only, a few weeks ago, and got from Mr. Sloan an order, on Mr. Fries, for cloth for another company, and had no difficulty in getting the material wanted:

Please do not think me too troublesome—I feel that I cannot do too much for these boys, who have shown so much confidence in me, and who really need that some one should act as their agent:

Will you write to Mr. Sloan, making known to him our pressing wants and asking him for the order. I feel, almost, sure that he would grant it, and in fact should have *no* doubt about it, if you could get Gov. Morehead to urge our petition:

I have made known to the boys how the matters stand, and of the delay that may occur, and indeed the final failure of our efforts, and they all beg that we shall try to get the material and have the clothing made at home. They say, and say truly, that they have been better and more cheaply clad than any other company in service, and they do not wish, unless forced to do so, to change their system; and withall they say that they can fight better in clothes made at home.

My dear father, I thank you, with all my whole heart, for the kindness of your letters: They do me the greatest good and furnish me the greatest comfort, and Oh! how grateful I am to you, for your kind feelings towards my wife and children: May Heaven be kind to you and yours for your goodness to me and mine! I have never doubted, indeed could not, your affection for me and them; but your goodness and fatherly kindness surpasses anything that I had a right to expect. If, with such parents to defend and the other high calls upon us, we do not show ourselves men in the hour of trial, then truly do we deserve to wear the ignominy and the chains of slavery.

You bid me write more circumstantially than I do! My dear father, except what occurs in our own regiment, we know *literally nothing*: we do not know even the regiment next to us and within twenty steps of us; Being in the army makes one wonderfully selfish—and utterly indifferent to everybody except our own immediate comrades: with them we would share our very last cent, while we do not care what becomes of any and everybody outside of that circle: Nor have we the least idea of what our generals are doing, or their plans for the future. Indeed we never, or scarcely ever, see them, and have no sort of communication with them.

We are in Genl. Colston's Brigade and Genl. Longstreet's division. The latter is thought to be a great man and has the full confidence of men and officers; The latter [former ?] is an utter and entire imbecile—a perfect sensualist—no courage and no mind! His want of, either, courage or mind, might have cost us very severely at Williamsburg; for we were left on the field, alone until 11 o'clock at night, and after everybody else had called away for four hours. His excuse was that he did not know where we were, but I have not a doubt that he was afraid to go to us:

We moved again yesterday, and are now in Richmond, between the York River and Central R. Roads; but it is uncertain how long we will be here, as we are ordered to hold ourselves in readiness to move at an hour's notice.

There has, just this moment, a rumor come into camp, that Jackson had met the enemy and given them a terrible defeat; but we do not know

whether it is true or not, as we hear every imaginable sort of rumours, every hour of every day: God grant it may be so!

I think the determination to defend Richmond is firm! It certainly should be; for to yield up the city without a fight would be regarded by the army as a virtual surrender of our whole cause. So far as I am concerned I intend to follow the cause wherever the flag may go, and to share its fate whatever it may be,—but there are a large number, in the army, who would be overwhelmed at the surrender of our capital.

Will you please present my best love to my own, dear mother. Assure her of my earnest, deep love for her, and that I hope she will remember me in her prayers. Give my best love to all the family, including old and young, and beg them all to write to me.

Say to Mama too that, if a good opportunity offers, I wish she would send us something to eat: We have literally nothing, as the commissary will not sell us any thing, and we cannot buy from the country people: We have paid as high as \$3.00 for a chicken, and were glad to get it at any price:

I learn that you were so good as to send my valise etc. by John Cunningham, who came to Richmond some few days since: If so, they have never come to hand, and I cannot learn what has become of them. I trust they may turn up soon, for I am greatly in need of them. I was thinking, yesterday, of how long I had been on the peninsula, and remember that I have been here six weeks, and that in that time I have changed my clothes twice, and even at that rate, I believe, I am ahead of most of the officers.

I am ashamed of having written so long a letter and of so little interest, but really I have nothing to write about. I was not so extravagantly imprudent in the battle as you have heard—nothing like it, and am surprised that such rumours should have gone out about me: Tell Mama that I will take care of myself and if possible come back safe and sound.

From Robert R. Bridgers.

TARBORO N. C.

June 2, 1862

Pardon me for asking you for a letter recommending Col. W. D. Pender¹ for the office of Brigadier General in the Provisional Army. North Carolina has two Major Generals and five Brigadiers including Gen. Gatlin and the lamented Pettigrew.

¹ Pender, two days before this letter was written, had been promoted to brigadier-general on the battle field of Seven Pines. On the same day Pettigrew had been wounded and captured.

Col. P. is about 30 years of age a strict member of the church a moral and upright man; of his capacity for the place I will refer you to your son Thomas.

Col. P. is graduate of West Point stood well in his class and has been regarded by the regular army officers as a young man of merit. He served with distinction on the Pacific and has won the confidence of every officer with whom he has come in contact. I understand that Gens. Johnston, Pemberton, Whiting and others speak in high terms of him. He was offered the command of a cavalry Regiment in our state but was persuaded by Gen. Whiting not to take it he was sure to be made a brigadier. Whiting commands 19 Regts. and Col. Pender is the Senior.

The impression prevails here that he has not been appointed because there has been no movement in the matter. We who know him have high confidence in his fitness and capacity.

If you can satisfy yourself of his fitness will oblige his many friends by sending me a letter for him to the President.

From Walter Gwynn.

RICHMOND VA. June 13/62

Grimes Brigade I find has not been ordered to the Valley. The Brigade to which Peyton is attached has gone, and his horse, having broken down I am now looking out for one for him, and will start him off in the morning. Henry is improving slowly. I fear he will be *hors de combat* for a long time.

I feel confident there will be no fight here until McClellan is re-enforced. It is reported (and I am inclined to believe it) that he has received some re-enforcements. It is certain that he is *commanding* all the Roads leading out from Richmond across the Chickahominy, so that we cannot advance without force enough to take *each position*, and turn his right flank, and I am sure we have not men enough to do that. What I fear is starvation, meal is three dollars per bushel and other *necessaries* of life in like proportion. I have witnessed great distress, among the lower and poorer classes. A visit to the market calls for a long purse to a "man of feeling." I am not however despondent. I have made up my mind to fight with Grimes Regiment. Trusting you all got home safe, that your son's health is improving, that he will soon be back at his post, and with my best love to each and every one of your and our joint family.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin,

Graham,

Alamance County, N. C.

From Daniel M. Barringer.

RALEIGH June 20th, 1862.

The time of presenting a substitute and getting a discharge for the Conscript is either to the Commandant of the Camp of Instruction, when organized—or to the Enrolling Officer when he appears in the County at the place of rendezvous to enrol the conscripts in each regiment—of which due notice will be given. I enclose you a printed order which may give you any additional information on the subject of Substitutes for Conscripts under the Act of Congress.

The Mr. Marshall,¹ to whom you refer is now Col. Commanding the 52nd. Regt. N.C.T. encamped near Kinston. He was a Captain of Volunteers from Edenton and that vicinity. Although the youngest Col: in the service he has a high reputation for the qualities which make a soldier, and is very much esteemed in his regiment. He is said to be remarkably well-educated and of much talent. I hear he was a private teacher in the family of Dr. Thos. D. Warren—Edenton—when the war commenced. My own acquaintance, though slight, with Col: Marshall sustains the promising fame he has acquired.

I am rejoiced to hear that Col: Ruffin is doing well and that we may soon hear of his entire recovery. But he ought not to attempt the service again too soon or until his strength will fully justify it. Remember me to him.

I concur fully in your sympathies for poor Mrs. Singletary. I hear she is very disconsolate. How terrible are the sufferings of War.

The President had a violent attack of Cholera Morbus here on Sunday night—but, feeble as he was, left for Richmond on Wednesday Morning. He appears much care-worn—but is in good spirits as to the prospects about Richmond—and the final result of our struggle.

* * * * *

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 23d June 1862.

This is a letter of business—but it must not give you trouble—at any rates I remember too well a former scolding from you to venture upon an apology for it. I wish to send the Citizen to Mr. Wilson's School the next session, but do not know when it commences or what his *terms*

¹ James K. Marshall, of Chowan, colonel of the Fifty-second North Carolina. He had been a captain in the Bethel Regiment. He was killed at Gettysburg.

and regulations. Will you give me this information? or see him and get him to give it. I take it for granted, he will recollect his kind promise to *take my boy* under his charge. He is now 12 years old. Dr. Hawkins desires also to send him two scholars, his oldest son, 14 yr. old, and a nephew about 13. Let me know as soon as you can, whether he will take the three. When the Citizen goes up, I will visit you. and if yr. House is full, as it always is, I can see you every day from Graham.

If I had known Mr. Wilson's address and office, you would have escaped the office I now impose upon you. Ask him, if you please to write me, to relieve you from the trouble of answering.

I am all ready for my pilgrimage to the mountains—if Lincoln's Myrmidons threaten my neighborhood, my negro men and boys also I think I shall move. Not time to say more. Harvest commences in a day or two—a fair crop—corn good—and all other eatables very promising. Will write you a letter soon. Writing is irksome tho' I have much of it to do. I have constantly recurring proofs of the heavy hand of time, but have no complaints on that score.

In your best manner, offer my kindest regards and good will to my old friend Mrs. R., not forgetting the rest of yr. family. God bless you and all of them.

Thos. Ruffin Senr. Esqr.

Graham.

From Edmund Ruffin, Jr.

PETERSBURG—June 24th 1862

The constant attention of my time and thoughts must be my excuse for not writing sooner.

I found matters worse than the dispatch by telegraph indicated—21 instead of 17 had gone off—on Friday night last 2 more—and on Saturday night 21 went from Evelyn-ton, my place in Charles City Co. In all 69 slaves have left me besides those in Hanover. Yesterday I brought the remainder, (except a few old ones and sick ones) some 60 in number consisting of women and children to town—of them I shall retain about 30 and shall sell the others. I sell of course the most indifferent and such as showed an evident intention to go off. My crops will necessarily be lost. We shall go up the country as soon as I can get away my bacon, cattle sheep hogs and mules. The house with the heavy furniture must be left to itself. We expect at present to retreat to a place 50 miles west of Petersburg on the South side R. R. or if I fail in making that arrangement, I think we shall accept Mr Broadnax kind offer—and go to his house.

My 12 men on the public works near Richmond are still safe. These with the others retained here and at home will give us a very fair start, when we can make one.

We are expecting a grand battle to morrow. Stonewall is thought by the knowing ones to be getting in rear of McClelland and all are sanguine of the most complete success. God grant it may be so.

Please remember me affy. to every member of your household—especially to Mrs. Ruffin. Tell her Jane is perfectly safe, staying at present at my brothers, 5 miles back from the river—until they have ravaged the banks of the river they will not penetrate that far into the interior.

From Paul C. Cameron.

FAIRTOSH—Friday. June 27th. 62.

To day at one o'clock "George" returned from Hillsboro and with divers other letter and papers delivered yours of the 25th. By this time you may have learned that my wife and self left Hillsboro early on last Sunday to be with our sick at this place. We are yet here and one or both of us are likely to be here for some time to come. Last Saturday Mr. Piper lost his youngest son Bryant (called for Miss B—) on Sunday I lost a very likely girl—(a daughter of my cook Dempsey and by Name Patty Ruffin—called for our Sister—) both these cases attended by Dr. Hicks and with him associated Dr. Holt in the case of Mr. Pipers son—and pronounced by them to be Diptheria. Both these cases of short duration, malignant in character and distressing in their progress and consequences. Up to this time we have 6 cases of which five are at this place and one at Stagville—we are as yet without the aid of a Physician and hope we are getting on successfully, but if needed will call the best aid we can command. As you have had so much experience with the disease and have *the time* would be much obliged if you would give me in a short way your treatment—and enclose it to me at Hillsboro as we shall have a servant to pass every day or two.

I am truly obliged to your kind offer of one of your barrels of whiskey (if you have it to spare) and will send up at the proper time Corn and Rye enough to replace your barrel and to pay Col. Holt for the Makeing and will when I can spare the Wagon send to your House and get it home. We are likely to have a good deal of chill and fever and as quinine is not to be had must use the Whiskey with bone-set and iron scales in what we call the black drink of the South as a substitute in cases of debility. So please say to "uncle Sterl" that I will not take the barrel that Mr. Curtis holds at \$3 per gallon! and that I am much obliged to him for his kind attention to my wants and wishes. I am

sorry to hear that "Tom" is making such slow progress in his convalescence. let me suggest that he and Mary go to Hillsboro—and take up their quarters with Rebecca and use all that we have as his own and where he can have the suggestions of a Physician—and we will supply him with the best food that Fairtosh or Stagville can furnish. I take a deep interest not only in *his* health but in all that concerns him.

We have here only a so so crop of wheat—damaged mostly by high water—whilst the Spring oats are destroyed by rust—the Winter oats good—corn yet in the clods and some not yet up as it was replanted on some of my best land after the water had passed off—but with good seasons and good cultivation we may yet make enough and I hope some to spare.

I had intended makeing a visit with Anne to the family before this and to have our boys Duncan and Benehan with me—but until this visitation has passed off we shall be denied any such pleasure. I enclosed in my letter to Sterling a note from his Sister asking him to see Mr. Holt as to a supply of summer clothing for the boys and cotton cloth for the family. She begs that he will see Mr. H. let us know what he can do—and that very soon. I wrote Mr Holt some time ago and as yet he has made no response—perhaps he did not get the letter. You say you will get off to Rockingham—on Monday. I wish I could ride up with you and see such of our friends as are at home—be pleased to tender *our* best greetings to *all*. Just here let me say that I have heard some strange things of a somewhat prominent citizen of Rockingham and until I am better informed will only say hope it may turn out *false* as I *hope* it is. I join with you most heartily in all you say about the three Governors and of your disposition to live on a short allowance. I fear we have a very long trouble before us and as yet I see no prospect of obtaining those supplies that are so much needed to maintain the issue. . . .

[P. S.] Tell William if he will come down we will fit the old House up for him—the most pleasant place on our lot—and we will plan campaigns, fight battles and smoke the pipe of peace through the dog days. I should like to show him the old place in its green state and my 24 majestic stacks of Hay.

From Paul C. Cameron to Sterling Ruffin.

[HILLSBORO, N. C.

July 4, 1862]

If nothing shall turn up to hinder my wagon will be at your Fathers on tuesday next—say by 2 o'clock—it will I expect be in the care of my

man Ben Umstead. I shall hope to see him back at my lot on Wednesday with the barrel of Whiskey and the South Down Buck and I told "Duncan after I parted with you and your Father to say that if you could at the same time send me a good looking Bull Calf from the Holt family of Cattle, that I should be very much obliged, and that I would return it in cattle of any sort—in the use of Morgan Horses of which I have 3—a pair of goats for his mill—or some Mad Cat chickens to you." Tell Duncan it would be very well for *him alone* to ride down with Ben and see the Cargo safe to Hillsboro. I was startled last night whilst seated in my Piazza by most distressing lamentations that seemed to issue from Dr. De Rossett's ¹ House at the corner near the old Tan Yard and that it proceeded from three or four ladies at once went to the House but not in and learnt that Dr. DeR. had just returned home and reported to his family the Death of Col. Gaston Meares ² and of his son Lt. Col. William De. Rossett!!!³ Mrs. Meares is here with the family. Poor woman she has lost a noble manly and affectionate husband—he was my favourite of the entire family of 9 sons! Oh how this war will cover our land with affliction and sorrow.

From all that I can see and learn—as to the progress of the fight the only question that is to be made now is as to the completeness of the victory. Will McL. get off with the remnant of his army or will he be brought to terms!

No news from my good wife and the sick at Fairntosh since I left it. I had intended going home yesterday but the truth was I was too anxious to get the contents of last nights papers to go from the side of the R.R. I sent a boy to her with letters and papers, and will go to her today. We hear that I get a large box of Medicine from the Station which I should not have taken Home if I had gone home.

I saw Dr. James Cain yesterday on his bed, getting on very well, free from fever and I think from Disease with the exception of Rheumatism—he will soon be well.

We are told that Ellick Kirkland has made a dashing aid to Pender.

My household here all well—hope our sons will conduct themselves so as to give no sort of anxiety or trouble to any one. Desire that Benehan be not allowed too large a liberty in riding about with his horse as he may get into trouble—deep water—or ride off too far from Home.

¹ Dr. Armand J. DeRossett, of Wilmington, a noted physician.

² Gaston Meares was Dr. DeRossett's son-in-law and was colonel of the Third North Carolina. He was killed at Malvern Hill.

³ William L. DeRossett, lieutenant colonel of the Third North Carolina. The report of his death was erroneous and he lived for many years after the war.

From Alfred M. Scales to Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

RICHMOND July 5th 1862.

My own Dear Friend.

My poor heart is almost broken. My own Dear brother Wallace in the last battle and in one of the most terrific charges I ever saw was shot down a few feet from me. He lived but two days and his corpse left this morning for the family burial ground. Poor fellow when I went to him he caught me around the neck and said he was so delighted that I was safe. He then asked me how the day had gone and seemed greatly pained when I told him it was a drawn battle said he could bear his wounds so much more cheerfully if we had been victorious. A nobler sacrifice cannot be offered upon the altar of our country than this boy though but a private in the ranks. My regiment has behaved with a daring worthy of all praise in every instance and has indeed deserved if not won a renown of which we might well be proud. I wish I could give you all the particulars but I am exceedingly feeble. I fear I have Typhoid fever. I was permitted to go through every battle that has been fought and that too under the mercy of God untouched. Since then I have given away and am completely prostrated on my back in Richmond. We lost other noble Souls. Capt. Cook I fear will be found no more. As gallant a Soldier as ever breathed. But Clark Faucett will tell you all. I am exhausted and must stop. Give yourself no concern about your furlough or that of Hill it shall all be right. My Dear friend my heart is full but the flesh is weak. I cant say what I would. My love to Mrs. Ruffin and my sincere thanks for her precious prayers in my behalf, they have been heard and I spared only by the mercy of God. Write me when you can. I loved but shed tears freely over your letter. Your honor will be safe with the 13th. I know it and feel it but we will never get what is due us.

Truly your devoted but distressed friend

A. M. SCALES.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—July 12th—1862.

Have you a full supply of *Turnip seed* that you can furnish me with enough to plant say one, to one and a half acres of land? I want them mainly for my sheep and cows. I had a fine prospect of *Ruta-baga seed* in Hertford; but my overseer writes me that the protracted wet weather of the Spring caused them all to rot.

What stirring events have taken place since I last saw you! We have cause to feel gratified to our Heavenly Father, for the issue of the

struggle at Richmond—whilst at the same time we can not but regret that the want of a high order of Military ability in our army rendered it so barren of results. One need not be a military man to see, that if the same generalship had been displayed *against* Maclellan, as was displayed *by* him, we should have entirely routed, if not captured, the whole Yankee Army. I should feel very much dispirited if it were not, that it is evident the European Powers will soon interpose. Matters have nearly reached a crisis in England and France; and when they receive correct accounts of the battle of Richmond, I think they will act promptly. If they do not, we are certainly in a precarious condition. McLellan has already been reinforced. He will be still more strongly reinforced. This will compel us to keep all our available resources stationary near Richmond, to match the enemy. We can't dislodge him from his present strong position. In the mean time the enemy will be marauding upon us at every point accessible by his gun-boats. I fear the state of affairs in Tennessee is very bad. From Information I have lately received I fear that State is almost as nearly subjugated as Kentucky is. There is no such uprising among that once bold, hardy, and energetic people, as I expected to see.

I fear scarcity and want of something to eat, next winter and spring. I fear it not only for the troops but for the local population of the South. The wheat crop throughout the south is very short. The oat crop still worse. Corn has improved very much in the last two weeks, and may be now said to promise well on the uplands. But the low lands, especially in the great Roanoke valley—will make short crops.

My wheat here that promised so very finely yielded only 15 or 16 Bushels to the acre. I had \$25000 to \$30000 worth of cotton burnt in Arkansas to prevent its falling into the enemies hands. To add to my other misfortunes, a hail-storm, unprecedented for its violence entirely destroyed my crop in Hertford, about ten days since. My overseer writes me the hail was 5 inches deep on the ground; and that the hail-stones were as large as hen's eggs and some as large as goose-eggs. I have had one negro to go off to the Yankees in Hertford,—my boy John, that kept my keys and was entrusted with everything. He was much better off than if free—for he wanted for nothing; and I never struck him, since he was a child. He is steward on one of their Boats and has frequently been seen and identified on the river. A great many negroes have run off in Hertford. The Yankee Gun-Boats patrol up and down the river constantly. They are a little chary about going ashore as there is a cavalry company in the county constantly watching them.

Do you read the Raleigh newspapers? Do you see the "Standard"? That paper has become perfectly rabid. It breathes blood and slaughter against every one who does not belong to what it calls the "Conservative party." What a shame it is to see an attempt thus making, to get up a bitter party contest in the state right in the midst of a war! And what is more deplorable still, to see the movement encouraged and pro-

moted by men of high character and position! And I have my fear that this movement is likely to succeed. The "Conservatives" or Holdenites—are thoroughly organized, they are working like beavers. The Southern-rights men have no party organization, they are comparatively supine and apathetic. Although they are in a decided majority, if that majority could be rallied, yet they are in danger of being beaten through their want of organization. Vance is in the Army, and the *esprit de corps* of military men is likely to operate greatly in his favor. I am sorry Vance has allowed himself to be *used* in this way, for the purpose of effecting mere partizan ends and objects.

* * * * *

Hon: Thos. Ruffin,
Near Graham, N. C.

From John W. Brodnax to William K. Ruffin.

DREWRY'S BLUFF

July 17th, 1862.

I have been intending to inflict a letter on you for some time and to inflict upon you some things of our doings for the last two weeks or rather of the two weeks we were across the river. It may be that much that I write may get to you second handed but I never write any thing I see in the papers for I know you would get mad as fire if any one told you a piece of news and you afterwards saw it in the papers. You already know that Jackson was to flank McLelland whilst the two Hills and Longstreet attacked him in front. McGruder was to remain on the west side of the Chickahominy, and McLelland was to be pushed across so soon as he got across. One of the Hills and Longstreet were to cross the River and coming down roads prepared for the purpose try and cut McLelland off from the river, they were to reach their point by Monday and all day long they came passing by us. Old Stone Wall was still to keep on the North or East side of the Chickahominy and keep McLelland from crossing, whilst McGruder was to follow him up closely. Jackson was to keep him from the White house. So far all went on well every part of Gen. Lee's Plan was being carried out to perfection and the enemy were placing themselves just where he intended to drive for a combined attack on them on Monday evening. Longstreet Jackson the two Hills were up to time. But McGruder did not push on as were his orders and consequently he was a day behind time. Old Hughes did not keep the force in front of him and actually allowed the division which had been in front of us at the 7 pines to escape from under his nose without his knowing, and even then by a little activity he could have cut them off. He lay with his troops on the road and allowed the

whole Division to pass a swamp where they could have been attacked most successfully—to make you understand it better I will try and give you some Idea of the situation of affairs on what is known as the Charles City road there are two swamps along two small streams, where they come together running to the Chickahominy they make the “White Oak Swamp.” The Division that were in front of us at the seven Pines had either to cross the White Oak Swamp or come nearer James River and into the Charles City Road and cross the Swamp at that place owing to the Bridge being down on the White Oak Swamp it was necessary to come a country road into the Charles City road and thence across the swamp; now Huger could have cut them in two where they entered the Charles City road and captured a large Portion of the Army but instead of that he sat quietly still and allowed them to pass him and then when they had passed he moved on. Monday evening the Hills and Longstreet having made their position had a tremendous fight with the enemy, and if McGruder Huger had have been up to time they could have nearly annihilated them, but instead of that they did not get up untill the next day. When the Tuesday evening’s fight came off the hardest fight of the week it was a life and death affair with McLelland if the day had have been two hours longer his whole army would have been routed as it was he kept the regulars in front so that the balance of his army might get off but they fought hard and had a fine position having been necessarily allowed to take their position owing to McGruder and Huger failing in reaching their position in time they had their Batteries well planted and were well worked to take them we had to charge across a field at least 1000 yards without a bush in it, it was attempted but failed. Our Brigade lost in the charge 500 men killed and wounded. Old McGruder was drunk or he never could have ordered a direct charge upon the Batteries during the night the Yanks left and that was the end of the fight—it was the hardest of all the Battles. McGruder and Huger were very much cursed and Old Huger has been relieved of all command and McGruder has been sent somewhere I dont know where to, at all events he is gone. In him I have been very much disappointed as every one was but no one expected much else from Old Huger, he never ought to have been allowed to command any thing at any time. Gen. Lee wanted McGruder cashiered on the spot for sacrificing so many lives unnecessarily but the President has had him relieved. The Point where all hands were to have met under Gen. Lee’s Program is a very remarkable one. Three roads that leave Richmond come together at that Point and it is the Charles City road, Darby Town Road and the River road, then the James Bridge Road across the Chickahominy intercepts the others there and in addition to that several roads running to the river and several running from the river. when you reach the point it would certainly strike you as being the point for all the forces to have come upon the Yankees especially after having known what the Program was to be; as all of Gen R’s staff did.

Had Gen. Lee's Plan been fully carried out McLelland would never have known what hurt him. My own opinion now that it is all over is that not a corporals guard would have been left to have told the tale. On Longstreets Battlefield of Monday evening he done them great destruction which goes to prove what might have been done if [he] had been supported as he was expected to have been. You may know something of the destruction when I tell you I stood in one spot and counted over forty (40) dead Yankee horses and the farthest one from the center one was not a hundred yards. I was close by that fight on Monday when Old Huger allowed a little Battery to keep him back all evening we were about three miles off the Gen sent me back that night to what we called head quarters, a Pine Grove about three miles from Richmond to make the necessary provisions for feeding the men so that I was not present at the fight on Tuesday evening although I was near enough to hear it all. Any one who goes over a Battle field after a Battle never cares to go over another and for one, I dont care if I am never near another fight again during the war. It is a sad sight to see the dead and if possible more sad to see the wounded; shot in every possible way you can immagine. I hope I have given you one little Idea of the plan of the fights. I have no particulars because all of these you have seen but I cant close without saying that the North Carolina Boys had the hardest of the fighting to do and well did they stand up to it. If any stain had rested on their State before it has been wiped out and they are now considered if not the best second to none in the field.

* * * * *

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH July 27th—1862

I received yours of the 23rd together with the *turnip seed* through the kindness of Mr. Edwards—for which I truly thank you.

I am pleased to know you purpose visiting Raleigh soon and on the day mentioned by you I will have my carriage at the depot and shall insist on your staying with me during the time you are here. I wish to see you and talk with you about many things. If you change the time for coming down, you will please be so good as to notify me of the same.

We have nothing new here. I but seldom go down town. I find plenty to occupy my time, in attending to my little farm, and other domestic employments. How I long for the time for this horrid war to be ended, when we shall all again be pursuing the tranquil avocations of peace.

I learn there is considerable political excitement in the county and both sides (I dislike to use the term parties) are sanguine of success.

From all I hear however, I incline to the opinion that the Holdenites will succeed. I also fear that Vance will beat Johnson for Governor. I have no personal objection to Mr. Vance—but I think he ought not to have allowed himself to be *used* by a set of men, the key-note of whose position is opposition to the administration of both Davis and Clark. The success of Vance can be regarded in no other light throughout the country both North and South than as counter-revolutionary in its tendency.

Our crops have improved greatly in the last two or three weeks. Corn may now be regarded as very promising. My fruit crop has thus far turned out very sorry.

[Address: Alamance, N. C.]

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 30th July 1862.

* * * * *

I am concerned more than I should permit myself to be about the approaching elections. The idea of having 25 or 30 members returned to our legislature from 15 or 16 counties in possession of the enemy, many of the Electors acknowledging allegiance to the Federal Govt. fills me with the deepest anxiety. Stanly, I learn, is fostering it as a federal scheme. Dr. Speed and others I could mention, are candidates. I am too much fatigued to write my thoughts on the subject. Do think of it and write me. A state of things is threatened which is utterly insufferable, and calls for the whole power of the State. You see then how it appeals to my responsibilities. I am pretty well exhausted, cannot look over what I have written, you must make it out as best you can. Tell the Girls to take care of my little Boy.

* * * * *

Hon: Thomas Ruffin Senr.
Graham N. C.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 4th August 1862.

Many thanks for your kind letter. I feel like a renewed man—but would not have you take my word for it. You will, I think, perceive that my nerves are more steady—my hand not so tremulous—and my thoughts, I hope, more connected. All the functions of the system seem

to be in healthful equipoise. I have not recovered my strength—but perhaps have as much as a man on the verge of seventy-five should be satisfied with. I avoid all fatigue—particularly of the mind and all exposure to the sun. My gait is steady—appetite good.

One of my Regrets is, that you are too old to ask you to come here. I want much to see you. Wish to talk much with you about Mr. Macon and the manner and form of publication. Since I left you I have resolved to couple your memory with his and to perpetuate my unceasing affection for you.¹ Somewhat in this form—after the dedication to Eaton—say,

“and”

“to his friend and my friend”

“Thos. Ruffin, Senr., late C. Justice of N. Carolina”

“who venerated the man—admired his virtues and still cherishes”

“his memory with fond affection, I offer this as a Remembrance”

“of one whom he delighted to honor.”

“To which it is a pleasure to add assurances of my unceasing affection, and a friendship of more than sixty years—uninterrupted “by the slightest ripple.”

W. N. EDWARDS.

How do you like this? These are the sentiments I would use. They need dressing up—in more taste and beauty. Can you oblige me by undertaking that task for me?

I was so pleased with my visit to your House (helpless and childish as I doubtless was) that I must as soon as I am able repeat it—if for nothing else, to thank Mrs. R. and the Girls (I like the term) for their great kindness to me. . . .

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.

Graham

Alamance N. C.

From Quentin Busbee.

RALEIGH, N.C. 18th Aug. 1862.

I understand from the Tres. Department, that the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund have not as yet appointed a Secretary. If my resignation has not been accepted, I desire to recall it, as I should much like to retain the position during the approaching session of the General Assembly.

Please inform me at your earliest convenience how the matter stands, so that, if necessary, I may communicate with Gov. Swain and Mr. Edwards.

¹ Mr. Edwards later changed his mind and the book was dedicated to William Eaton alone.

From David A. Barnes.

RALEIGH Sept the 20th, 1862.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Edwards the President of the Convention this morning. He informs me that he has received a communication from each member of the committee empowered to call the Convention in the event of his death, except yourself, giving their views upon the propriety of reassembling that body. He did not communicate their views to me.

I am sure he would be pleased to hear from you upon the subject.

We had a very large assemblage here today to attend the funeral ceremonies of the Lamented Genl. Branch.¹

From Weldon N. Edwards.

(PRIVATE)

POPLAR MOUNT. 22d: Sept. 1862.

I have anxiously looked for the "long" letter you promised to write me. I presume it was on the subject of a call of the Convention. After we parted I learnt that applications would be made to me in the form of Memorials, (then getting up), and am in daily expectation of them. Of course I feel much embarrassment—and would be glad to have all *your* views in the matter—they would greatly aid me in solving the many doubts with which I am perplexed. They are not a little increased by a letter recd. from the Govr. "*urging*" the call. He seems to think that much aid would be derived to the Ex: from the action of the Convention—that the Legislature, if convened—"would be cramped by the forms of the Constitution" and that it could not provide suitable remedies for the disorders of the times. (I state these things in confidence). An appeal from such a high source cannot be treated slightly and must be responded to in a manner that will at least evince a proper respect for the Executive—and a due Regard for the public Interests. He ought to know what the exigencies of the State demand and no proper aid should be withheld from him.

Now I write this to say I shall go to Raleigh next Thursday and shall be there all Friday—that, if you can meet me there, without *much* trouble, you could not well do me a greater favor.

I have written in much hurry and almost without thought—to get my letter off to day. I must add the Merchant's phrase, "E.E."

God bless you

Hon. Thomas Ruffin Senr.

Graham N.C.

¹ General L. O'B. Branch who had been killed at Sharpsburg on September 17th.

[ENCLOSURE]

Z. B. Vance to Weldon N. Edwards.

NORTH CAROLINA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH Sept 18th. [1862]

*Hon. Weldon N. Edwards**Ridgeway, N. C.**Dear Sir,*

I learn that an application has been made to you by Several Delegates to call the Convention together again, for the purpose of rectifying some omission in the constitution. I have not investigated the subject sufficiently to judge of its necessity upon that ground, but I beg leave to join in the call for other reasons.

Extortion and speculation have attained such proportions that I find on investigation, it will be impossible to clothe and shoe our troops this winter without incurring a most enormous outlay and submitting to most outrageous prices.

The Cotton and Woolen factories have advanced their prices to an unheard of extent and refuse to make contracts which would prevent them raising next week, if they saw proper. The price of common shirting, for example, is fifty cents per yard. It requires one million yards to furnish each soldier two shirts and two prs. drawers, which is the winter allowance. This you will see amounts to 500.000 dollars, simply for under clothing. When you take in the shoes and clothing (coats and pants) which have advanced in the same ratio, the sum will be almost incredible. By calculations submitted to me by intelligent gentlemen, it appears that 25 cts per yd. for cotton cloth will actually pay the mill owners near 300 per cent.

The cry of distress comes up from the poor wives and children of our soldiers also, from all parts of the State. If these prices bear so hard upon the government, what will become of them, when in addition we consider the enormous rates at which provisions are selling? It is a subject that distresses me beyond measure, the more so as I feel powerless to remedy any of the evils. The Legislature if convened would be cramped and hampered by the forms of the constitution. The Convention alone can properly take the matter in hand and save our Country and Army from suffering and ruin, if indeed, anything can rescue them from the ungodly and inhuman spirit of avarice which is rampant in the land.

In view of these and many other suggestions which I can not elaborate in a brief letter, but which have no doubt been apparent to you for months past, I feel it my duty to urge it upon you to assemble that body together as soon as possible, to adopt such remedies as it may think best

for the disorders of our country. Its business might be easily gotten through with before the Legislature assembles, so that there would be no conflict between the two bodies.

Earnestly hoping, Sir, that you may concur with me in the propriety of this course as I know you do in the desire to relieve, if possible, the burdens of our people,

I remain with Sentiments of sincere regard

Yr. obt. Svt.

Z. B. VANCE.

From Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

NEAR WINCHESTER Oct. 14th 1862.

I am very, very, much obliged to you, for your kindness in informing me, so promptly of Mary's good fortune, and your very kind congratulations on the occasion. I wrote Mary a long letter as soon as I got the news, assuring her of my sympathy and wishing her much luck with her new charge; and I presume she will get the letter in due time.

For fear, however, that it may be delayed, I take occasion here to repeat my protest against having the chap named after myself: I cannot give my assent to it! Not that I object to having him named "*Thomas*"—for that I desire—but I wish it to be done, and so understood to be, after yourself! And truly do I hope and pray that he ever so live, as to bring no discredit upon a name which his Grand-father has made so honourable.

I thank you too, my father, for your pious prayers in my behalf, and for your most kind advice, to me, on the subject of my own duty: I am free to own to you, that I have thought much of my situation, and the obligations resting upon me, and that I feel an earnest wish to amend my life, and to live in accordance with the precepts of God's holy word; He must have a hard heart indeed, who can [go] through what I have gone, and yet feel no sense of gratitude to God, for his preservation and escape from danger; and who does not feel an increased obligation resting on him, so to walk as not to offend so gracious and so merciful a God.

There is no place where God's power appears so great; nor where his goodness and mercy seems so gracious, as upon the field of battle. We all feel, then, that without him there is no hope for us, and no door of escape.

I beg, my father, that you will continue to intercede for me, and will implore Him for my preservation, and restoration to my family and friends; and more particularly that I may receive God's grace, to enable me to repent truly of my sins, to resist temptation, and to live the life of a Christian.

Will you please give my best love to my good old mother, and tell her that I thank her, from the very bottom of my heart, for her kindness in taking care of Mary, and that I shall love her for it, with my whole heart, as I long as I live; Kiss her for me and ask her too to pray for me.

We have been here, now, for several weeks—merely changing from one spot to get clean camps—without any object that is apparent to the uninitiated: The enemy are said to be advancing towards Gordonsville, and to threatening our rail-roads in that quarter: Whether this be true we do not know certainly, but get such rumours from day to day: Our army generally is in good spirits, though sadly in want of shoes and clothing. Our own division is not doing well! There is much real dissatisfaction with Genl. D. H. Hill on the part of the men, and some want of confidence, in him, on the part of the officers: The truth is, that while he is without any exception, the bravest man I ever saw, he has no art of managing his commissary and quartermaster departments; and he has around him, in those positions, the most incompetent and inefficient men in the army: Our division have been on short allowance all the while, and very frequently are without any food, and yet at the same time Longstreets and A. P. Hills men, in full view of us, are most abundantly fed: There is the same difference too in the Qr. M. departments of the several corps. The difficulty, with Genl. Hill, in part is that he found these men in position, when he came to us, and though he knows them to be incompetent, he cannot make up his mind to dismiss them: He is, too, an unfeeling man towards his men! When he has to fight he expects all hands to be there, ready and anxious for the fray, and as soon as the fight is over, he seems to take no further thought of them, or to concern himself about them: He is too sadly wanting in military precaution, and seems to think that everything depends upon fighting—hard fighting—and that too without stopping to consider the number or position of the enemy: at the battle of “South Mountain”—Sunday the 14th, he sent our Brigade, unsupported, to meet the attack from three divisions of the enemy: Of course we were overwhelmed, and it would have been with great slaughter, if some of our regiments had not have run before the shock came on: It was on that day that our own little 13th won a name that ought to last as long as the history of this war is remembered, and which has made her “the talk” of the Brigade: We numbered, only, two hundred and twelve men, and were assailed by a regiment in our front, one on our right and one our left all at the same moment: I thought the game was a hopeless one and determined to surrender with my whole command, and was on the point of doing so, as I could not bear to see my men falling all round me! But just then Capt. Hunt, of Caswell, ran up and asked me to order *a charge*; I asked him if he thought the men would make it; he said *they would*, and I gave the order; and they did make it beautifully and

drove the enemy in our front back, wheeled to the right charged the enemy then and there, and then about-faced charged those on our left and got out:

This is well known in the army and fully admitted by all generous men; and yet because Col. McRae's regiment, lead by himself, ran before the shock came on them, he fails to make known the fact officially: He is a bad, bad, man and as sheer a coward as ever hid or ran.—My intercourse with him, is purely official; much to my gratification as I thought he was disposed to take me into his confidence, and I feared would involve me in some the miserable feuds, which his presence seems everywhere to breed: We split upon my having the candor to tell him, when asked by him, that I did not desire him to be our Brig. General. But I need not tell you about him, as you know him far better than I do, and have had a better opportunity to judge him. I have made two efforts to get into Genl. Pender's Brigade, but have failed, and see no prospect of accomplishing it: I had the satisfaction, however, of hearing from Genl. Lee, a few days since, that Col. McRae would not continue in the command of us, many days.

My dear father, in the fight on Sunday Robert Clendenen, the son of the old man who lived near Providence meeting-house, was killed: I felt his loss from certain causes, very keenly—more so than that of any one who fell on that day. He had always been so respectful towards me, and so ready to be advised by me, and his mother had so often and so feelingly asked me to take care of him, that I had come to regard him as my special charge: He leaves a poor mother, worse than widowed, as she has a drunken husband; and as she is old and infirm, I fear, that she may suffer: Will you not be so good as to go to see her, sometimes as you pass there, and, for me, supply her with such little things as may be necessary to her comfort. I would offer to repay you for any expenditures you may make for her, but that I know you would not expect it of me. She is one of the best women I ever knew and has been a true friend to me, in time past.

Will you please get some one to write to me, occasionally, to let me know how Mary and the brat come on: I shall be anxious to hear from her, until I learn of her complete restoration. I hope too that, in the excitement created by the last arrival, that "Jimmy" and his "daughter" may not be forgotten, as they were so completely ignored by you, that I really do not, now, know whether they be alive. Do offer to John my *earnest* congratulations upon his recovery, and my serious protestation against his return to the army, before he be perfectly restored. This is certainly no place for a sick man.

I have written the latter part of my letter by firelight, and a very indifferent fire at that: So that I must bid you good bye! My warmest love to all! ask Sister Alice to write to me. I thank you for investing my money as you did. It is just as I would have it.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 17th Octr. 1862

I somewhat reproach myself for not answering sooner your two letters on the subject of calling the convention—but really I have been so much engaged I had not time to attend to the claims of friends—not even of an old and tried friend like yourself. I have had the Proof-sheet of my little tribute to that good man, Mr. Macon to revise and at the same time to relieve myself from the perplexities occasioned by the call upon me to reassemble the convention. I am now through both. You will have seen in the Papers my reply to the solicitations made to me.¹ It is the very best I could do. I obeyed a law I have always endeavored to observe in public life: to give the result of the convictions of my own mind, an honest mind, I hope and believe. This fulfills my engagement to those I represent—to have done otherwise would have betrayed my trust. I know no compromise in matters of a public nature—which can excuse the substitution of the opinions of others for those of the agent. The Reply is of *my own finding*—but had it been a matter of personal interest only—I should have been strongly tempted to forego my own convictions. For your kind suggestions, I sincerely thank you. I am sure I need not assure you, that they will be always welcomed in regard to any duty, either *private* or public, that may be imposed upon me. I hope soon to see you and talk all these matters over—writing has become too irksome to me—to make them the subject of a letter.

The legislature will soon be in session. Our Board must then Report. I hope you will have one ready for Swains and my signatures—And will not *one* meeting of the Board answer for this purpose? I will be sure to attend, if Health permit. I am now in excellent Health. . . .

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.

[ENCLOSURE.]

*Extract from the Standard.*²

POPLAR MOUNT, 4th Oct., 1862.

Col. D. A. Barnes:

Dear Sir:—I duly received, under your cover, two memorials from a portion of my fellow-citizens, for whose intelligence, patriotism and worth I entertain the highest respect, requesting me, as President of the State Convention, to re-assemble that body “at an early day;” and a few other eminent citizens, by letter or otherwise, expressed a similar

¹ See following letter.

² From the issue of October 15, 1862.

desire. Their suggestions have been duly and maturely considered, and I have consulted several gentlemen, whose talents, experience and public services entitle their views upon any question connected with our State policy to great weight, and, after a careful and anxious review of the subject in all its bearings, and availing myself of all the lights accessible to me, I have been unable to perceive any sufficient cause, at *this time* existing, for calling the Convention together. Respect for the opinion of my fellow-citizens, as well as for the imposing character of the solicitations made to me, and justice to myself require that I should state some of the leading reasons which have led to this conclusion.

The memorialists represent that another session of the Convention is rendered necessary by "the unfinished and imperfect condition in which the Constitution of the State was left at the late adjournment"; while others desire one to meet the exigencies of the war. The Convention, on the 30th of April last at its fourth session, passed a resolution in these words:

"Resolved, That this Convention do, on Tuesday the 13th of May next, at 2 P. M., adjourn, subject to the call of the President; and, in case of his death, inability, or resignation—of Messrs, Ruffin, Brown, Graham, Osborne and Smith, of Halifax—or in case of the death of one or more of them, then the residue, at any time from now until the 1st of November, 1862; and if not then called together by that time, that this Convention do stand dissolved."

As to the remodelling the Constitution, there is reason to believe that all further action to that end was abandoned by the Convention itself. Otherwise it would have adjourned to some named day, as it did on three former occasions, and not have left it as a matter of discretion with its presiding officer, or his alternates, to call it together or not as they might think proper. Whether amendments were needed or not certainly depended very little indeed upon future contingencies, to be judged of, in the course of a few months, by me or any one else, in the exercise of a discretionary power. The Convention, at the time of the passage of the resolution of adjournment, had the facts before it in reference to the Constitution as fully as the President could have them in the recess, and could determine for itself at the time, without devolving the duty upon him. A careful reading of the Journal towards the close of the last session, will, I think, satisfy any one that it would be assuming too much to suppose the Convention contemplated amendments.

My own impression decidedly is, that the final dissolution of the Convention was postponed to the 1st of November in consequence of the War, and for that cause only. There seems to me very little reason to doubt but that a final and absolute adjournment would have taken place, if the country had been in the enjoyment of peace. Such an adjournment would have also taken place, notwithstanding the war, if the Convention had been satisfied that nothing would occur up to the time designated in the resolution to require the exertion of its high powers. The

Convention perceived that circumstances might occur in the progress of hostilities to render another session expedient. For instance—the State might be invaded by so strong a force, and many counties so completely overrun by hostile armies, as to make it impracticable for the people of a large section to elect members of the General Assembly, perhaps, in even a majority of counties; or the success of the enemy in the mighty efforts then going on in the invasion of Virginia by the numerous and powerful army under McClellan, might leave North Carolina in a very exposed condition. The President was, therefore, clothed with discretionary power to act upon emergencies as they might arise. In the contingencies mentioned, and others which might be readily conceived, another session of the Convention might have been deemed unnecessary; but no such session, as I conceive, was contemplated, except in consequence of some extraordinary event arising *after* the adjournment. My action, according to the true meaning of the resolution and the evident intention of the Convention, is restricted to events of subsequent occurrence, upon which the body could not act, and does not extend to those which had already taken place.

It will be remembered that, at the time of the passage of the resolution, the affairs of the Country were in a critical condition, and there was much to excite the apprehension of the patriot. Nothing has transpired since, rendering further action in the body any more needed than it was when its members left Raleigh in May last—nothing calling for the exercise of the high and extraordinary powers confided to the President. On the contrary, the arms of the Confederacy have since been attended with splendid success—far beyond our most sanguine hopes—and our prospects were never more bright and cheering. The strength of the enemy in North Carolina is greatly diminished, and he has made no progress in the invasion of our territory. He has been driven from Virginia, with the exception of a few of the Eastern and Northwestern counties, and in other sections the events of the war have been highly favorable to the cause of our national independence. Where, then, is the necessity for a fifth session of the Convention, so far as the war is concerned? What reason exists for any further action on the part of that body, which did not exist in as full force in April and May last as it does now? It is true that the Government of the United States has recently made arrangements to bring into the field a greatly increased force, but the Confederate Government has also passed an act which will greatly augment ours.

In relation to any action on the part of the State of North Carolina, which the safety of the State and her necessities may require, it appears to me that the General Assembly has ample authority to do everything which the crisis may demand. It is a well established principle, that the General Assembly has power to pass all laws not prohibited by the State or the Confederate Constitution. The Legislature, therefore, has before it a broad and extensive field of power. Measures such as those

alluded to seem to me most appropriate for the action of that body. Its members have been recently elected by the freemen of the State, and are familiar with their feelings and sentiments. They may be presumed to know what the people desire, and what burdens they are able and willing to bear for the laudable purposes above mentioned, or any other object demanded by State exigencies; and I cannot imagine for a moment but that the Legislature chosen by the intelligent and patriotic Freemen of North Carolina will *with entire unanimity*, maintain the proud position which the Convention has assumed in relation to the eternal separation of North Carolina from the United States, and the independence forever of the Southern Confederacy, at any and every sacrifice; and that they will, with like unanimity, indignantly repel the foul slanders upon our good old State by *Northern* journals and *North-ern* officials, in representing that a large portion of her people entertain "Union" sentiments and "Union" sympathies.

To condense my views in a very succinct form, I will say, that I cannot, according to my understanding of the true meaning of the purposes of the Convention, go, in search of reasons for reassembling it, behind the date of the adjournment, and that no event has since occurred to require another session.

For these reasons, I am constrained to decline a compliance with the solicitations made to me. If I were clearly satisfied that public opinion demanded another session of the Convention, I might yield my own convictions and act accordingly; but from the best information I have been able to obtain, public opinion neither demands nor would approve it. It is proper to state that the memorials are signed only by eleven persons, and that but a few others have intimated to me, by letter or otherwise, a desire that the Convention should be recalled.

The power conferred upon me by that enlightened and patriotic body—the Convention of North Carolina, (whose tokens of favor and confidence will ever exist amongst the most treasured memorials of my public life,) is one of grave responsibility, deep importance, and great delicacy—a power to be exercised with the highest degree of care and caution. Regarding it in this light, the cause for its exercise should be clear and satisfactory. I see none such at this time.

With sentiments of high regard,

Your obedient servant,

W. N. EDWARDS.

From D. W. Courts.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT N. C.

Octo. 23, 1862.

Pardon me for troubling you about a matter which is just now giving me a good deal of concern. I understand from a reliable and intelli-

gent friend that Judge Shepperd will introduce a bill to order the issuing and sale of 6 percent bonds which it is supposed will now bring a premium and with the proceeds take up all our 8 per cent bonds. And this friend advises me to recommend that course in my Report to the Assembly. Now my difficulty is this, the ordinance directing the issuing 20 years and 30 years bonds to which I beg you to turn says as to one class of them that they shall be payable 20 years after date *or sooner at the pleasure of the State*. The bonds which I have issued say they are payable 1st March 1882. They do not contain the words "or sooner at the pleasure of the State" but I sold and received the money for certificates a copy of which I send you. The sales were all made before the bonds could be prepared. You see the certificates for the Confederate tax which were sold in Richmond have these words while those sold here say nothing about the length of time the bonds are to run. In point of fact I sold the certificates and the bonds were prepared afterwards. The proposition to sell sixes and take up the eights will no doubt be popular and will I think prevail. Now though you hold our 8 per cents I know you will advise me to do in the premises what you would do yourself. Shall I present the matter in my report or not.

Please let me hear from you as I am now engaged on my Report.
Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From D. W. Courts.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT N. C.
Nov. 8, 1862

After you left I gave Gov. Braggs letter a more careful reading and concluded that he had not adverted to the reference in the face of the bonds to the ordinance under which they were issued And I wrote to him making that enquiry. The enclosed is his response Please do me the favor to give me your opinion upon the same subject and return to me that of Gov. Bragg.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From Andrew Kevan and Brother.

PETERSBURG Nov. 10. 1862.

Your favor 1st inst recd. annexing your two checks amounting to \$4550., for investments in 8% Bonds of the Confederate States,—say \$4500—which has been done, and we have obtained from the Treasury,—Four Bonds of \$1000 Ea. and One Bond for \$500. Interest

thereon accruing from and after the 7th inst. These Bonds we shall send under cover to you, care of Mr. H. Jones Esq Cashr Bank of Cape Fear at Raleigh by first private safe hand we meet with, that may take charge of them. There is no charges—our Jno. Kevan, being Chairman of the Committee in this City appointed by the Govt. to receive money for investments in the Bonds of the Confederacy—and we have placed to your Credit \$50. subject to your order on us at sight.

The high premium on No. Ca. 6 and 8% Bonds is a temptation to sell and reinvest in Confederate Bonds, thereby largely increasing income of semi annual interest. To arrive at a result, for the basis of such an operation—the test, can be *first* made personally. Thus, at what price will *you* be willing to become the *Endorser* or *Security* for \$10,000. *Confederate Bonds* having 20 years to run—comparatively with the price, *you* would be willing to endorse or become Security for \$10,000 of *State of No Carolina Bonds* having 20 years to run? The investors of money in State Bonds, at the advanced premium, over Confederate Bonds, base their judgments upon this one thing,—viz. The Confederate States are a New Nation—as such, if they do not succeed in their independence, their Bonds will be of no value—not so with the State Bonds; whether the Confederacy is Established or not, in either event, the *States as such, will remain intact*, and their Bonds will be good. We assent to these views, and cannot advise your turning your State Stocks into Confederate Bonds, *at this time*. The difference *to you*, is not adequate to the hazard. Yourself and the writer are getting too much advanced in years to engage *anew*, to gather up means for a support. Those who are young in years and have none dependant on them, may (and very properly too) undertake the risk, but only them.

[P. S.]

Bonds No. 2039.	\$1000
2040.	1000
2041.	1000
2042.	1000
1492.	500

\$4500—Interest from 7th Nov. 1862.

Glad to hear your son the Doctor is so much improved in health.

The writers son is also improving. His chin and jaw discharges pieces of bone yet—and his wound in the breast still discharges puss.

From D. W. Courts.

RALEIGH N. C.

Nov. 18, 1862.

A thousand thanks to you for your reply to my letter. Judge Shepperd says he is not in favor of the policy imputed to him. I think the indications are that I shall be retained.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

I enclose your certificate for \$500.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Nov. 23d—1862.

My esteemed and Honored Friend,

I received your kind and welcome letter by Robbin Jones, who staid with us last night, and left for his company in the army this morning. I regret very much to hear of your domestic troubles and afflictions caused by disease and death in your midst. I have passed through it all, and know all about it. Nothing but time, "sole comforter when the heart had bled"—with a Christian resignation to the decree of an all-wise Providence, can bring relief.

We are all in tolerable health, but in great anxiety on account of *scarlet Fever*, which is prevailing here. At Mr. Lovejoy's close by us are several bad cases. There have been a considerable number of deaths from it, in Raleigh. We are as careful as we can be; but the disease seems to be atmospheric. I have such a horror of the disease that if it were practicable I would leave here with my family. But the times are so "out of joint," that it is impossible almost to obtain comfort, at home, even.

Genl. Polk left here with his wife and daughter, for the army of the West, on Tuesday last. I really wish you could have seen him, and talked with him, and heard from his own lips, his account of the Kentucky campaign, and his views and opinions in regard to it. Being *second* in command, of course, he feels himself greatly restrained by professional etiquette and propriety in speaking out openly and publicly. But he would have spoken freely and unreservedly *to you*, as he did to me. I will say to you *in confidence*, that if Polk had been in chief command, the strategy of the campaign would have been very different—and the practical operation, as to tactics would have been very different. He was in favor of a more rapid and energetic campaign. Instead of the long detour of 400 miles around by Chattanooga, he was for a more

direct and vigorous plan of falling first on one corps of the enemy, and then on another and thus destroying them in detail. Instead of marching on a line, nearly parallel with that of Buel, he was in favor of a cross march, and falling on his flank and crushing him before he could get to the relief of Louisville. And instead of fighting the battle of Perryville with divided forces, he was in favor of concentrating our forces then falling first on one corps of the enemy, and after crushing that, then crossing Green River and crushing the other corps—all of which he insists could have been easily done. As it was he was ordered to fight the battle of Perryville with less than 15000 men against 60,000 of the enemy. He did fight it, and drive the enemy for three miles, like sheep, covering the ground with their dead. Still, the victory was barren of results. Bragg may be a good disciplinarian; but you may rely on it, that his fort is in organizing, but not in operating and fighting armies,—of course what I say, in regard to opinions expressed by Genl. P. must be considered as confidential. Genl. Polk seems fully sanguine as to our ultimate success. He says he thinks the army in the West can maintain itself and will give a good account of itself. He enquired after you and about you—and would have been pleased to see you.

I confess the prospect looks dark to me. I fear the worst for this winter. The want of food and clothing and blankets and shoes, for our soldiers is more to be dreaded than the Yankees, and then again the suffering among the poor at home, is dreadful to contemplate. Corn is selling here in Raleigh at \$9 to \$10 a Barrel, and green pork at 30 cents a pound.

Well, the Legislature is in session here, in full blast, turning out everybody, door-keepers, clerks etc. that does not entertain opinions—or who did not vote for Governor—in accordance with the views of the majority. They elected Brogden yesterday, because he voted for Vance. But I learn, they have decided in caucus that Courts and Page are to be beaten. And whom do you suppose has been selected for Treasurer? Jonathan Worth of Randolph!!—as I was informed yesterday.

The heart sickens at the sight of such doings. Never, never, in the worst days of party bitterness, did I witness any intolerance to be compared with it.—of course Graham is to be elected Senator. Yes: Davis is to be proscribed for no other offence than being a true and warm Southern-rights man. Robt. Gilliam of Granville and Robt Dick of Guilford are the candidates for Judge in Kerr's place.

I hope you will be down here before a great while. I would like to see you and talk with you. When you come down, come direct to my house.

I declare to you, my good friend, I shudder when I think of what I believe to be the purpose of those (I mean the leading and controlling spirits) who now have sway in our state politics. I believe they are shaping their course to meet contingencies. If we succeed in achieving

our freedom and independence, the world will never know and history will never write their intentions. They will shout louder, and boast more valiantly of their sacrifices and achievements, than all others. But if disasters come, and the spirit of our people succumbs; then they intend to have it in their power to say that they were first and foremost, in raising the flag of *reconstruction*. As to the Asparagus roots (for which we are very thankful) I think it best to put them down this fall. How shall I get them? Can you box them up and send them down on the rail-road? Please write down briefly how to manage them. I have forgotten your directions. Susan, Sally, and Kenneth join me in kindest regards to you and yours.

Yours sincerely,

K. RAYNER.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Graham, No. Ca.

From D. W. Courts

TREASURY DEPARTMENT N. C.

Nov. 24, 1862

You may remember I remarked to you that I should probably write to you and some others for letters rebutting the charge of favoritism to political friends in handing out 8 per cent Treasury notes and bonds.

One gentleman to whom I have made the explanation told me he was glad to hear me for I had refused them to him and he could not account for it, as he knew others had recd. them. He expressed himself entirely satisfied with my explanation.

Mr. Jonathan Worth has been nominated in caucus against me and the general but not universal impression is that he will be elected. I understand that there is already some dissatisfaction among those who participated in the caucus and endorsed the nomination.

I beg you if you have leisure, to go somewhat at length in your reply, because you have, as an individual and Commissioner of the Sinking Funds probably seen more of my administration of this office than any person outside of Raleigh. Moreover I want to treasure up your letter as a proof of my official integrity for I value my reputation more than life.

My case will be decided in a few days.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

From William H. Oliver.

GRAHAM NOV. 25/62.

By your request I now send a Demijohn for the Cider.

A friend of mine who has been absent from home about sixteen months and who a short time past was taken prisoner in attempting to run the blockade and has recently escaped from the Yankees is to dine with us to-day; we will be extremely happy if you and Mr. Sterling Ruffin will come in and dine with us at 3 o'clock.

Get the Bags of Corn ready and I will send them down, there will be no difficulty I think in getting any quantity of corn provided we have bags to put it in, of Salt I wish I had a thousand sacks of it to send you.

From Charles Manly.

RALEIGH NOV 28/62

My Dear Ex Chief.

I did not *forget* the Box but after I "give in my experience" about Railroads and Depot agents I think you will justify me in not sending it. Why Sir our old broad-brim, swinging-long-tail friend, John Newlin—sent to the Hillsboro Depot in Sept. last a Bale (50 Bunches) of Spun Cotton and paid the freight to Raleigh for me. Well I waited and waited and at last wrote to the Agent at Hillsboro about it but got no answer. I sent a special agent and he was informed that there was no yarn there for me and never had been; Whereupon I wrote a scorching letter to old shad belly telling him that my 3 Looms were idle, My niggers next kin to naked, and that he might count on being roused up at midnight by a longlegged Black Ghost all tattered and torn screeching and screaming in his ears Yarn! Yarn!

This "exercised" Old Saxapahaw pretty considerably and he assured me that he had Cameron's *Receipt* for it.

I made my complaint known to my Brother who, being a Judge, could I thought, issue the big writ of Tantaradandem which would get my Bale whether or no. He made a Raid upon the Ware House and there was my Bale snug enough! Resting quietly 60 days. The agent promised day after day to send it and failed and at last the said Judge sent it by the express, double freight.

Then I had to sit down and write old Saxapahaw an humble apology, for an unmerited rebuke etc. etc.

No Sir, you don't catch me trusting anything to that concern. It would get swallowed up at Hillsboro. sure. You would be put to the

trouble of sending to Graham for the Box, then returning it to Graham and then, good bye Box.

Now ain't I right?

As for the Assembly it *beats Bobtail*.

Not content with enemies abroad fierce, implacable and devilish; they must stir up strife and ill will and venom at home. No other state in the Confederacy is such a pack of Asses.

They elected Graham Senator yesterday. That will do.

We look for you next week according to promise.

CHAS: MANLY

My wife has not actually cussed, but she looks like she thought *damn* it about the cabbages but nobody can overcome the Hillsboro depot. They'd stop there certain and sure.

From Andrew Kevan & Brother.

PETERSBURG NOV. 28, 1862.

Your letter of 19th was recd. in due Course of mail annexing your Check for Nine hundred and fifty Dollars; which, with Fifty Dollars due you by us—we have purchased a Confederate* Bond for \$1000—being Eight pr. ct. Int. Coupons attached. This with your others we shall forward by first safe opportunity to Mr. H. Jones Esq. Cashier at Raleigh for you.

We deeply sympathize with you in the affliction by Death of the loss of your two grandchildren.

We note your remarks as to the probable course of your State Legislature in regard to their 8% Bonds. We was aware that the record on the Bonds themselves gave them that privilege—and purchasers of them, understood the uncertain period of time which the bonds might be permitted by the State to run.

We are always gratified and take pleasure in giving any information or *opinions* we may have, on any financial measure of state or Confederate states; but in doing so, you must bear in mind that they are only opinions of "*business men*," and are liable to error—from the fact, that we are hourly and daily in the maelstrom of business, and in contact. By an examination of our opinions at the standpoint you are—and free from the *rush* of business men—you can bring your mind to conclu-

*Bond No. 1073. \$1000 dated Novr. 26, 1862. Int. coupons @ 8% payable 1 January and 1 July each year—Principal payable 1 July 1877.

sions, more reliable than us. We will give you data, on which to determine. We are still violently rocking on the billows of War. Our people are more serious and thoughtful.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 1st. Decr. 1862.

Is it not time that the Comssrs. of the S. Fund had met to make their Report to the Legislature? I have expected a call from you for that purpose ever since the session commenced and have postponed a trip to Raleigh on other matters—so as to embrace both in the same visit. I am now in good health and will endeavor to be punctual on any day you may appoint—tho' age almost unfits me for travel or business. I fear you feel also the same infirmity, or you would not be in arrears to me for two letters.

* * * * *

To. Hon: Thos. Ruffin Senr.
Graham N. C.

From William J. Bingham.

I am gratified to see that my letter, instead of exciting a smile, struck a sympathetic chord 'in the bottom of your heart'; not that I entertained the shadow of a doubt of your whole-souled patriotism, or of your reverent trust in God, but I thought you might perhaps be amused at the fervor and *enthusiasm* of a *young man*—comparatively—in addressing a 'grave and reverend senior.'

I confess the prevalent spirit of avarice, selfishness and extortion affects me more sadly than even the spirit of faction and proscription which you so deeply and justly deplore. The latter, however much to be feared and deprecated and detested, I have somehow in the last twenty years come to look upon as incident to human freedom and frailty, and to expect from human selfishness upon each successive revolution of parties.

In regard to John, while it affords me sincere pleasure to assure you that he exhibits most perceptible wisdom this time of improvement in feelings, in manners, in deportment and in learning, yet candor obliges me to say that he has not yet come up to the desired mark, tho' moving gradually, and I think, steadily, in the right direction. Habits of care-

lessness and inaccuracy—heedless superficial habits—so easily formed and fostered, require much time, patience and perseverance in unfixing and up-rooting. John does not yet aspire sufficiently to excellence, and is too well contented with any plausible excuse for not thoroughly studying out and understanding a lesson. Let me beg you and his mother, however, to give him full credit for all reported in his favor, as *an incentive to more earnest effort*, and rather to commend what he has done, than to find fault on account of what he has left undone. *I make this suggestion because I know his temper.* Again, I told him to tell his mother for me that he had not yet quite recovered of his last Christmas frolick, and that a relapse the ensuing Christmas might be disastrous; that I would consent to his going home Christmas eve, and eating ‘Chritmas pie,’ provided he should be at recitation with lessons ready for the day after Christmas; that *she* must bear the hazard of a longer absence from his books. Now, my dear sir, I have to beg you to intervene, if need be, that the undue tenderness of a mother may not injure her son. Such another holiday—two whole weeks!—and he may be hopelessly behind his class. I don’t doubt he delivered my message; but he could hardly avoid softening it. ’T would be too much to expect of a fun-loving, social boy. . . .

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

From Edmund Ruffin, Jr.

RICHMOND, Dec. 2d. 1862.

I sent a telegraphic message to you today from this place, and for fear you may not receive it, I repeat it by mail. Please take out of the package of papers left with Mrs. Ruffin for safe keeping eleven N. C. 6 per cent bonds each for \$1000, which you will find therein, and send them *by express* to Jno. A. Lancaster and Sons Richmond Va. The remaining papers please retain for me.

I lately bought a small farm, in Amelia County 40 miles above Richmond, and 8 miles west the Danville Rail Rd., 300 acres, for which I had to pay 6000\$—and I desire to convert a portion of the above bonds into money for this purpose. I have sent up to this place 25 women and children and if the enemy comes too close to us expect to take my family and other servants to it likewise. We are and have been very comfortably fixed at Marlbourne ever since we have been there, and none of us desire to leave it unless we are forced to do so, or until we can return to our own home. This property in Amelia I shall sell as soon as the war is over, and I think I have succeeded in procuring a place which I shall be able to sell without sacrifice.

* * * * *

We are every day expecting an attack at or near Fredericksburg. Our men and officers all express the utmost confidence. Our army is said to be ready. May God defend the right!

One of our Marlbourne men, who has been out ever since May, returned last Saturday night of his own accord. He denies having been with the Yankees, and professes to be unable to give any account of the other negroes. We still incline to the opinion that the negroes from Marlbourne are in the neighborhood, but those from Beechwood and Evelynnton were shipped down the river. My Father is with us—his health is good, decidedly better than when you saw him, his spirits depressed frequently on account of his deafness and consequent inability to participate in general conversation.

Please let me hear from you as soon as you have sent the bonds.

From Frank G. Ruffin.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT.
RICHMOND 2nd December, [1862]

*Judge Thomas Ruffin
Graham,
Alamance Co. N. C.*

My Dear Sir

I have your letter and enclosed petition. Such matters are referred not to Mr. Seddon, but to Judge Campbell, now asst: secy: of war, to him I took the letter at once, and he promised me to attend to and answer it. I think the case has been ruled already; but he will let you know in a very few days.

My wife gratefully receives your kind remembrances and begs in return to send her regards.

With a kinsman's and clansman's feeling to you and yours
I remain

Yours to command

FRANK. G. RUFFIN.

*From John A. Campbell.*¹

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
RICHMOND, VA. Decr. 3rd 1862.

Sir.

Your letter of the 28th Ult. enclosing an application from John H. Klapp for the discharge of his Miller from service has been recd. This war has, undoubtedly, produced great disturbance in the employment of individuals and subjected many persons to great inconvenience. Cases involving not only inconvenience to individuals, but prescribing circumstances of misery, arising from disease bereavement infirmity confusion in business and disorder in domestic affairs and calling for discharges for the army are presented every day. But our armies in the field are recoiling before the stronger armies of our enemy and compel the department to determine upon the application without reference to such circumstances.

The conscription act of April provides that the President be and is hereby authorized to call out a place in the military service of the Confederate States, for three years . . . all white men . . . between the ages of 18 and 35 years at the time the call or calls may be made, who are not legally exempt from military service. The persons to be exempted were defined in an act of the same month. The call was made in April for the persons to be placed in service.

The act of October operates upon a different portion of the military population—that between 35 and 45. The language is that the President be and he is hereby authorized to call out and place in the military service of the Confederate States for three years, unless the war should have been sooner ended all white men who are residents of the Confederate States between the ages of thirty five and forty five years, *at the time the call* or calls may be made, and who are not *at such time or times*, legally exempted from military service.

On the day this act was approved an exemption act embracing Millers was passed. But the applicant at this time was in the army and a con-

¹ John A. Campbell, of Alabama, 1811-1889, a native of Georgia and a graduate of the University of Georgia. He became prominent politically and as a lawyer in Alabama, to which State he moved in 1829, but declined all offers of office until 1853, when President Pierce appointed him associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Believing that a peaceful settlement of the sectional controversy was possible and right, he was the intermediary between Secretary Seward and the Confederate commissioners in 1861, but when war came, he resigned and came South. Later he became assistant secretary of war, holding that position until the close of the war. He was one of the Confederate commissioners to the Hampton Roads conference.

struction that would allow the discharge—his case would take out all of his class and not only this, the same principle would extend to all other classes similarly situated. We cannot tell what the effect of the derangement would be.

Very Respectfully

Yr. obt. Svt

For the Secy of War

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Graham

Alamance Co. N. C.

J. A. CAMPBELL

A. S. W.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Decr. 6—1862

I wish to send my son Kenneth off to school somewhere next year, as there is no school here that is of any account,—I have thought of Dr. Wilson's. How far is that from you? What do you think of his school? How many boys has he? Does he take them to board in his family?—as I should wish him to become a member of the Teacher's family. How far is Dr. W's school from the Rail-Road?—and what is the name of his Post-office?

Please write and inform me—unless you expect to be down here soon—in which case you will come and stay with me, and we will talk it all over.

Do you notice how our Legislature is getting on? Do you notice, that Gov. Graham reports from the Judiciary Committee, that the officers of Adjutant Genl. and Attorney Genl's offices are vacant, and that too in the face of the fact, that there are divers members in both Houses, who hold offices in the army—the same constitutional inhibition applying to the latter as well as to the former? For the life of me, I can't understand this business.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

From Matthias E. Manly.

ENO LODGE Dec. 7/1862.

Highly respected and dear Sir.

I am much obliged by your kind and instructive letter.

The united council of the judges was finally thought to be advisable in the case that has given rise to our enquiries.

Judge Battle is of the opinion you express *decidedly* Ch. Jus. Pearson *inclines* that way but has not given a final answer.

The course which will be pursued is probably that indicated in your note, viz, a respite will be asked of the Governor and the order for a "certiorari" made at the session of the court.

None of us have any doubt that the case as stated by the judge (Saunders) presents a proper one for a certiorari upon *security* given. The main difficulty has been whether a *single* judge of the Supreme court could order the writ; and if so, whether he would do so without security, upon the ground that the *discretion* vested in the judge below, ought; upon the case presented, to have been exercised *differently*.

I repeat my obligations to you for turning your mind to the enquiries made and for your very satisfactory letter on the point.

Ever with the highest respect your obt. servt.

M. E. MANLY.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin Senr.

[Address: Haw River

Alamance

By Jesse. N. C.]

From John A. Lancaster and Son.

JOHN A. LANCASTER & SON,

Stock Brokers,

RICHMOND, VA. Decr. 9th 1862.

Thos. Ruffin Esqr.

Raleigh N. C.

Dear Sir.

Yours of 5th inst, and the Eleven N. Carolina 6s have been recd. N. C. 6s are now selling at 133 The demand for them is entirely from the Blockade Runners, trading north, and just now there is not much call for them. We might however, work off the amount you name in a few weeks.

Yours respectfully

JNO. A. LANCASTER AND SON.

From Edmund Ruffin, Jr.

MARLBOROUGH Dec. 17th 1862.

On my return home yesterday evening from Prince George and Petersburg, I found your letter of the 5th Inst., the bonds had reached Richmond in safety and in good time. I telegraphed to you from

Petersburg, to trouble you further about my bonds—if you did not receive the despatch or if you have not already attended to my wishes, be so good as to take from the same package coupon bonds of the South Side Rail Road Co to the amount of \$10,000—and Coupon bonds of the City of Petersburg to the amount of \$7000, and forward both by Express to Messrs Hinton and Dunn of Petersburg. I can get 130 for these bonds and have determined to sell them and invest in 8 p. c. Confed. at par. I am sorry to give you so much trouble, but you must look upon it as a part of your share of the difficulties which our infamous enemy has brought on us.

I found all well here on my return. My Father went with me to Prince George and is now staying with Julian. Lottie has had a long attack of typhoid fever and looks very badly, but she is again up and attending to her household matters. We were very glad to hear such good accounts of your health and that of Mrs. Ruffin and especially to find that you have grown 10 years younger than when we last heard of your age, stating as you did that you were in your 66th year.

My Son Thomas is at his post in the army, in the lines before Fredericksburg. We recd. a letter from him yesterday. He does not complain of the hardships or the exposure, altho' his regiment did not receive tents till the 3rd inst. George is at the Military Institute at Lexington. Another of our men has come in here, making four that have been returned, two have been captured. Could we have only any assurance that we would not be interrupted by the Yankees we could turn to and make a good crop here next year but so much uncertainty exists as to the future that we are at a great loss as to what is best to be done.

From all I could learn in Richmond I am inclined to think our victory on the Rappahannock was more glorious, and the check to the enemy more positive than was at first represented in the papers—there is no doubt of its being a grand affair.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Dec. 25—1862.

A thousand thanks for the fine quarter of mutton—which came in from our friend Manly last night, as we were sitting by the fire, a short time after reading your kind letter. The mutton is very, *very* fine, and I will pay my best respects to it to-day, at dinner.

We are very thankful to you for the interest you have taken, in our son Kenneth Jun. I shall write to Dr. Wilson to day—and I shall propose to obviate the difficulty about *blankets*, by sending, or carrying with me, a couple of *Blankets* and a *comfort*, for Kenneth's use.

Our national prospects brighten every day. The enemy are evidently *reeling* from the shock at Fredericksburg—and in addition to that, Hampton's relieving of them of the Christmas cheer intended for Burnside with 170 Prisoners—and Forest's handsome dash at Lexington, Ten[nessee] must teach them, that we are becoming more and more earnest every day. I think our prospects are to-day more cheering than they have been for the last 12 months. I have good news from my property in Akansas. The Yankee Gun Boats made their appearance in the river near my place. My friend Hilliard informs me, that in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour all my negroes and his, were off, (fled *from* the Yankees) and are now 28 miles from the river (an impassable swamp between) with shanties built, and corn hauled from our places—without our losing one out of some 350 in number.

I have great cause to be thankful for my good luck thus far. Mr. H. writes me, that they landed at Judge Ringo's place $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below him, and *forced* off 9—five men and 4 Boys—against their will.

Have you read Davis' proclamation of retaliation against Butler? It is just the very thing! The more I study Davis' character, the better I think of him. He is, you may rely on it, a philosophic statesman. I have blamed him for his dilatoriness in regard to retaliation. But it seems his patience has been the result of his anxiety to place himself *right*, before the Christian world. He has at last taken his position. He will not be moved from it! If Butler is ever taken, he will die, "by hanging!!"

A happy Christmas to you and yours. My wife and Sally and Kenneth join me in kindest regards to you and Mrs. Ruffin and the family. I will duly notify you in regard to my going up to Dr. Wilson's.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Charles Manly.

CHRISTMAS '62

My Dear Ch: Justice

"A merry christmas and happy new year" to you and yours. The wish is *sincere*, faith in the realization in the future is *weak*.—

Our existence as a nation is gone. "The capability of man for self-government" is played out. It is all humbug.

If our Independence were established tomorrow the Confederacy would not last six months. The national debt would be too tempting for Demagogues and repudiation would follow, sure as day. Universal Suffrage is the Devil. It is hard work to keep our Legislature from flying off now; while the breaking up of the Courts has set afloat a contempt of all law and enforcement of contracts, and every Blackguard claims the right to cheat and steal as much as he pleases.

But this is no time to indulge such gloomy forebodings.

That splendid mutton arrived by yesterday's Train and I proceeded at once to the distribution according to your orders. The side being taken by Mrs. M, "heads and tails" decided the balance between Mrs. Badger and Mrs. Rayner the former getting the *fore* and the latter the *hind* quarter.

We have been keeping ourselves a day or so for today's dinner and I fear "somebody 'll get hurt."

Many thanks, my good Friend,

With true regard

Yours etc.

CHAS: MANLY

From John W. Brodnax.

WELDON,

Jan. 3rd, 63

I have received no letter from Haw River since I left you all; now two weeks ago I learn that Peter informed you that I had not gotten back to camp which was a mistake, for I reached here the next morning after leaving you. John I knew was not here as his regiment did not get back untill the day that Peter left, which I suppose was the reason that Peter did not know of my arrival. I am something better than when I left you but still on the lift but hope another week will put me all right again. I wrote to Nanny last week and mentioned to her that I would write soon to you. As I wish Gus to go home and see his friends I have written home to send Hack down to take his place and as it would save a trip I have directed him to bring the wagon down so that he might carry the cotton back. I would be glad if you could get me (40) forty bales or bundles of cotton yarn as Son will want some. and if you could spare me 250 or 300 pounds of raw cotton I would be very thankfull as I dont where I shall get it from if I dont get it from you and they are needing it very much.

I would not trouble you about these matters were it not that I am unable to attend to them myself, your unvarying kindness to me and mine must be my apology for this trouble. I have been greatly troubled at hearing of Mama's indisposition and hope most sincerely that she may not be sick long or much; may she soon be up and her life spared for many a year to bless those around her and her many friends who are every body that ever knew her for myself I feel all the love and affection for her as if I were her own child for at her hands I have received mothers best love and affection do make some of them write and let me know how she is. I received a letter from Dr Brodnax this morning, he mentions that Mrs Calender had told him that Patty and Sally were going down to see her the last of this month—tell them

if they will let me know on what train they will pass through Weldon I will try and meet them there.

The passage of the Substitute bill has given general satisfaction in the army and if congress will only repeal the exemption law I think we are safe for I think this year's campaign will settle affairs and it is all important that we should do our very best. . . .

From Frank G. Ruffin.

RICHMOND Jan'y 5. 1863.

As soon as I got your letter, I took it to Judge Campbell, who, in turn, took it to Mr. Seddon. The President had made the appointment of *the* Thos. Ruffin, and neither of those gentlemen knew which it was. The President returned on yesterday; and today I saw Colo. Johnson A. D. C., who in the enclosed note gives you the honour of the appointment.¹

If it be not impertinent allow me to say that true humanity to the country, the cause and the army is to hang and shoot all malfeasors until you strike terror into them.

When I said "yours to command," I meant yours to be commanded, and am very happy you took me at my word. I hope the junior Judge is better and will soon recover, but take a fools advice, and don't let him go back to duty too soon.

My wife thank you is very well and joins me in kindest remembrances to you and yours.

In haste, (but never too busy to try and serve you),

Hon. Thos. Ruffin,

Graham, Alamance Co. N. C.

[ENCLOSURE.]

From William Preston Johnston to Frank G. Ruffin.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
RICHMOND, VA. Jan'y 5, 1863.

Major Ruffin.

The writer of this letter is the person designated by the President—the venerable Judge Ruffin.

Resptly

WM. PRESTON JOHNSTON

Col. and A. D. C.

¹ This appointment, made in December, 1862, was finally settled upon Thomas Ruffin, Jr.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO, Jany 5th '63.

My wagon will be up from Fairntosh to day and I will keep it here until Wilson with his wagon makes the trip to Haw River for the apple Trees. I hope he may be able to get back here tomorrow night, but by that you will detain him as long as you wish to get the trees up to *your* liking. I left instructions with Mr. Piper to have the holes all prepared the week after Christmas and I have no doubt is now prepared to plant on land that I hope will be the property of your Grandson, Duncan. We are all well once more. Benehan yet pale and feeble. Alice and the little girls came safely to hand on Saturday in Company with President Davis who made a pretty little speech at the Station, Gov. Graham acting as the Master of Ceremonies. He said he saw peace ahead—and that we should drive back the hated Yankees, and paid a very high compliment to N. C. The Stokes property did not *fill* my bill—only 250 acres of flat land—much worn—judging from the size of corn stalks,—without timber—and with surroundings not to my likeing. I got home in time on thursday last to wish my wife and little ones a happy new year.

[P. S.] I sent you the letter of the Lynchburg Seeds-man, A. B. Rucker and Co. by mail—he has no Lucerne seed—very little Clover seed in Market—and at a high price—I think \$29. per bushel.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Jan 12th 1863.

I did not get to see the order of the Comrs. of the sinking fund till a few days ago. I see a discretion as to the times and quantity of sales of your present Stock is confided to you and to myself, as Pub. Tr.

I think you should bid for the \$200,000 of State bonds now offered, at par. If proposals shall be made, offering to take them above par, then I can exchange with you our 6 per cent notes, convertible at the pleasure of the holder into 6 per cent bonds, for the proceeds of your sale, and thus accomplish the object.

If you concur in these views then I think you should go immediately to Richmond and sell so many of your bonds as you may deem expedient, after you get into the market. I say *immediately*, because the 6 per cent convertibles constitute nearly the whole of the resources of the Treasury—and I shall be compelled very soon to pay them out.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 13 Jan. 1863.

The enclosed communication from the Public Treasurer was received by yesterdays mail. I avail myself of the earliest opportunity to transmit it to you.

I informed you last week that Mr. Worth supposed he would be able to sell the new six per cents at a premium and that he had determined to emit the largest allowable amount of Treasury notes, which he says though not redeemable for years, will be universally preferred to Confederate money, and to issue as few bonds as practicable—*the maximum of notes and the minimum of bonds*. It seems that he will not now exchange, except with the Sinking Fund N. C. notes funded at 6 per cent, few Confederate notes fundable in 8 per cent Confederate bonds.

Hon. T. Ruffin.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Jany 15th—1863.

* * * * *

Nothing new here, except what you get in the newspapers.

There is a gentleman here just from Vicksburg—who was in the last fight there. He says we killed and wounded at least 5 or 6 thousand Yankees, and that our loss was almost nothing—that we have a very heavy force there well provisioned from Texas; and that our officers regard the place as *impregnable*—that the Yankee accounts of their having taken our first and second lines of intrenchment, are all false—that our generals *allowed* them to approach as near as practicable, that they might get a good chance for summary execution upon the wretches.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance Co. N. C.

From James T. Redd.¹

RICHMOND Jan'y 22d. 1863.

Sir

Your letter to Major Ruffin this day received. Being unable from the great press of business upon him to write at once, he requests me to address you and say that he has a comfortable and pleasant room at

¹ Clerk to Frank G. Ruffin.

his house in the City, and will be most happy to have you occupy it during your stay in Richmond.

The allegations of Mr. Foote, it is scarce necessary to say, are entirely false and groundless.

P. S. On your arrival here, don't take a Hack but walk up to my house from Depot.

F. G. RUFFIN

[Address: Raleigh N. C.]

by J.T.R.

From Samuel F. Phillips¹ to General James G. Martin.²

General Martin

Dear Sir

I differ with "Halifax" when he says that all questions as to incompatibility in offices—one which is held by an officer in the Militia or a Justice of the Peace—are to be tried by the letter of the Constitutional provisions which he cites. I am of opinion that the common law is not repealed as to some such questions by those provisions.

I proceed to show wherein I suppose his argument upon this topic to fail.

The common law made certain provisions upon the subject of incompatibility of offices, but they were not sufficiently extensive to suit the framers of our Constitution. For instance, there is nothing at common law to prohibit a citizen from holding two *lucrative* offices under the government, merely as such; our constitution provides—in addition to what the common law says on this subject, that one such *lucrative* office shall be incompatible with another such *lucrative* office. It excepts from this additional provision Militia officers and justices of the peace. That is, both of these offices are left as they were at common law:—I mean to say, that at common law any man who held a militia office etc was not thereby disqualified for another office, although *lucrative*, and so it is now.

Again the Common Law could not decide that *every* office or place of profit or trust under the Confederate States is incompatible with *every* office of like sort under the State. It could have decided the question

¹ Samuel Field Phillips, a son of Dr. James Phillips of the University, a graduate of the class of 1841; professor of law, 1854-1859; later speaker of the Commons, and solicitor general of the United States.

² James G. Martin, 1819-1878, a graduate of West Point and a veteran of the Mexican War. Resigning from the United States Army in 1861, he was soon after appointed adjutant general of North Carolina, a position for which he was admirably suited. To him belongs much of the credit for the wonderful manner in which the troops from the State were raised and equipped. He was also responsible for the profitable adventure of the State in blockade-running. In 1862 he was made brigadier-general in the provisional army of the Confederacy.

no doubt to *some* of them. Our Constitution goes further;—it provides, that *any* office as above under the Confederate States is incompatible with *any* like office under the other. It again excepts from its provisions officers in the Militia and Justices of the Peace.

“Halifax” thinks that by those exceptions the common law covering questions of incompatibility in relation to those officers is repealed. I disagree. In both cases the affirmative provisions of the Constitution *enlarge* the common law, and the exceptions made are exceptions from that enlargement. As to Militia officers and Justices of the Peace, it is as if the sections cited did not exist.

I think that I may state the matter in the form of a proposition: viz.

By the Constitution—“All offices of profit etc. under the Confederate States are incompatible with all offices of like sort under the State.

But by the Constitution a militia office is *not* an office of profit and trust.

My *conclusion* is, Therefore, that section of the Constitution makes no assertion whatever about militia offices, as incompatible etc.

“Halifax” concludes: *Therefore*, Militia offices are compatible with all offices of profit etc. under the Confederate States.

This may or may not be true in itself—but is beyond doubt, no logical inference from what is propounded by the Constitution.

I think that it is not true in itself;—the common law making a different provision. The point here however, is that the Constitution says nothing about it.

“Halifax” is not consistent with himself, for if, as he maintains, the constitution has declared that an officer of the Militia is not disqualified from holding any office etc.—how can an *Act of Assembly* disqualify him, as he admits that it may? An act of Assembly cannot disqualify for office one who is qualified by the Constitution,—I mean, by the express provisions of the Constitution. If “Halifax” be correct in his reading of these sections a Justice of the Peace may be Chief Justice of North Carolina, or of the Confederate States.

Now if it be true, as suggested by the Legislative Committee,—that the office of A. G. is rather an office *collateral to*, than *in* the Militia—is it possible for the General Assembly to *redefine* the place so as to give it the benefit of a provision in the constitution which when that paper was drawn excluded it. I do not know how true the position of the Committee is upon this point, but if in 1776 the Adjutant General’s office was one not *in* the Militia (being analogous to that of Governor) it is impossible for the Legislature of 1861 to make it so for the purpose of avoiding a constitutional provision by which in 1776 it was (say) a lucrative office—or in 1836 an office of profit and trust. They cannot do this any more than they can define a Judge to be an officer of the Militia—or than by adding militia duties to his office they can impose upon him for all purposes the character of an officer of the militia.

General,—this note is longer than I would have made it with more time. Having to go home this afternoon however, I have been hurried in its preparation since I met you this forenoon. If I had remained in Raleigh I should have presented it in person.

I take this occasion of expressing to you that which I have said freely to all with whom I have conversed upon the subject—that your advent to office as A. G. was an era of great and good reform in this State—and that your duties have been performed with eminent benefit to North Carolina.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant

S. F. PHILLIPS.

Raleigh, N.C.

30th Jany 1863.

[Address:

General Martin

Present.

Favored by

R. H. Battle Jr. Esq.]

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO N. C. Feby 5th 63.

When I wish the opinion of one that I may go to sleep on I turn to you—the large deductions from my income makes a little careful—cotton burnt—plantation dismantled—the best milk cow I had lost in the range makes one who is the father of 7 children a little prudent. I have been told that you have lately visited both Raleigh and Richmond and I am sure well posted and both able and willing to tell me what you think *best* to do with some \$12,000 which I wish to put aside for Wife and children. I care but little about *myself*, but I am full of care for those that I love. I offered it to “State Treas.” on Certificate of loan for 12 months—but he had no *need* of Money! Will Confederate Bonds be Guaranteed by the States! If so will it be retrospective and embrace the bonds now being issued. We are all well, and if we had a little Green Tea and a nice Herring, would say “Devil take the blockade” and tho we have not fuller smoke houses and corn cribs, we are both older and wiser and can take better care of it—and with Ice House full of snow we will look forward in joyous expectation for the fruits of the garden orchard and field. But this snow storm will make the pigs and lambs squeal and blate and the Corn melt! Poor soldiers what a time! God I hope will take care of them. . . .

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA. Feby 6th 1863

We have been more successful in selling your N. C. bonds than we expected we would be. We have sold @ 125 \$22,000 of them. We sold a portion of them in time to purchase \$14,000 of Confederate bonds @ par and net, but have been compelled to pay $\frac{1}{2}$ per ct premium for \$13,000 more. The Banks do not now pay out the old notes and we are compelled to offer a premium in order to obtain them. We hope to sell more of your bonds soon and get \$5,000 more Conft. bonds.

P S Nothing done by Congress as yet. in regard to the currency. The writer is pressing his plan and thus far it has been favorably rec^d. by all the Members to whom it has been explained.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Feb. 14th 1863.

I inclose my check on Bank of N. C. for \$27.75 in payt. of written warrant which I could not get certified earlier. Please endorse and return it.

On the 26 Jan, a certificate issued to the Sinking Fund for \$77,500, the amt. of your bid for State bonds; and on the 2nd Feb., a certificate issued for the \$300,000 recd for dividend from N.C.R.R.

I have recpt of Jno A. Lancaster and Co. for the \$100,000 State bonds sent them to be sold for Sinking Fund—and have heard nothing from them since.

[P. S.] Send me your recpt. for the \$27.75. I will retain the warrant.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

From James G. Martin.

RALEIGH Feby 15, 1863.

I have not yet received any letter from you in regard to my legal right to the Office of Adj. Genl.

I am rather afraid your letter has been lost. As the Governor is still waiting on me, I would be very glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Will you please return me Mr. Philips's letter.

* * * * *

Judge Thomas Ruffin
Graham, N. C.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Feb'y 16, 1863.

I this day send "by express," (freight paid) to Graham Depot, a box, directed to you. Please open it and take out the things for yourself and Books for Sterling and William. The other things in the box are for my son Kenneth, which I must ask of you the favor to send over to him. After taking out what is for your house, you can nail up the box again and send it over to Kenneth. I was mistaken in supposing I had a "Bloodgood" pear tree. I now recollect that Carter told me he had no bloodgoods. But I have sent you a bundle of "Bloodgood" cuttings, and a bundle of cuttings of the "Red-spice" thimberville Pippin apple—and cuttings of four varieties of native, hardy out-door grapes.

Poor little Kenny—he writes very home-sick. I hope he may have been over to see you before this. One of the Books sent—"The Land and the Book" I think you will be much pleased with; and tell Miss Alice, I think she will find it a pleasing and interesting book.

You notice the news from the North West. There is no doubt great agitation and excitement there, which I hope will enure to our benefit; but I do not credit the report of the contemplated convention of the Legislatures of 4 states in Frankfort this week.

I dread to hear from Vicksburg. The passage of the 2 Yankee iron-clads, induce me to fear they will all pass and the last account favors the idea that the canal or "cut-off" may be made practicable for the passage of their transports.

The "State Journal" of yesterday had the resolutions passed by our meeting.¹ I drew them. They must not be criticised according [to] the rules of grammatical or rhetorical taste. They were not written for the eyes of scholars; but for the masses. The object I had in view was to present the salient points of ground of opposition and resistance, to the most unprincipled faction (as I honestly believe) that ever had power in our country.

Let me know beforehand when you are coming down.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

¹ These were a series of resolutions urging greater unity and vigor in the prosecution of the war.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Feb. 17th 1863.

I have just recd from Lancaster and Co. the following Telegram.
 "Send me one hundred thousand bonds, immediately—have sold them."

I sent \$50,000 yesterday and send to-day \$50,000 more.

From Walter Gwynn.

WELDON N. C. Feby 17/63.

I will proceed at once "to the object of present writing" and it is to say that a box of bottles will be sent, or have been sent to your care at Graham Depot. Please have them filled out of *my barrel*, and sent to my address Raleigh, care of Major H. K. Hunter. . . .

I am very much occupied here, and think when I get through with the works round about here I will go home and there remain, and leave it to the young men to fight "this thing" out. I am now, or soon will be sixty one (61) years of age and I think it is time I should retire. My self respect in my opinion requires it. I cannot speculate and will not, if I could have done so I might have made a million—or even more—and without even very great stretch of conscience. As to my views in regard to the contest in which we are engaged, all I can say is I can see no end to it. The peace party at the north look to a reconstruction of the union which is an impossibility. What the end will be God only knows; I am sure no human being does, for my own part, I do not think we have arrived at the "beginning of the end."

I write in a great hurry and not as plainly as I might. I hope you will be able to make *it* out. It is a consolation to me however that you will lose nothing if as I verily believe, you will not be able to do so.

* * * * *

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,
 Graham, N. C.

From Lancaster and Company.

Feby 18th 1863.

We have your favor of 14th Inst. Mr. Kirkland has not yet called. We note your instructions in regard to delivering him yr. bonds etc. We have invested your balance in 6% call bonds.

An unusual demand for northern exchange has sprung up recently and everything in the way of exchange has been bought up, except N. C. 6s and they are now taking them, we have consequently sold much more rapidly for the sinking fund than we expected. Have sold about \$200,000. We have recd. \$150,000 of bonds, from Mr. Worth and we expect \$100,000 more of them are on the way to us. We made two large sales @ 125 and finding the demand so good, we advanced the price to 125½ and then to 126 at which we are now selling, will advance the price as rapidly as the demand will justify.

From Kenneth Rayner to William K. Ruffin.

RALEIGH Feby. 19—1863.

In packing up the box which I sent yesterday to Graham depot directed to Judge Ruffin, I entirely forgot to put up the spectacles, and knowing something of the inconvenience of having to get along with spectacles that do not *suit*, I hereby send them in a letter, hoping they may safely reach you.

I also forgot to put in the box the barge gloves the Judge lent me the day I left there. Tell the Judge I have the gloves and will keep them safely till he comes down.

I sent you a few books which I hope you will find interesting.

You have seen our Resolutions as published in the "State Journal" of Monday last. How do you like them?

Nothing from the seat of war. I presume the next 10 or 12 days will decide the fate of Charleston and of Vicksburg.

Wm. K. Ruffin

Alamance N. C.

From W. R. Richardson and Company.

RALEIGH No. CA. Feb. 21/63.

Your favor to hand.

We are sorry to say that No. 6s (old issue) are very dull here at present with scarcely any demand. Our people greatly prefer the new 6s at 106 to the old issue. There were a few sold some weeks since at 127 and interest but they were purchased by Virginians for the purpose of running the blockade. If we might be allowed to suggest we would recommend that you send the bonds to Richmond where they would doubtless command a higher premium than in this State. The writer (W. R. Richardson) sends his regards to Judge R.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham N. C.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Feb. 21st, 1863.

I have at last succeeded in collecting $11\frac{1}{4}$ millions from the Con. Govt. and have prospect of other payments soon. I sold our State 6s at 5 per cent. premium till I got this payment, when I refused to sell more, and they are now held at 6 premium by the brokers and will probably go much higher.

No 6s, old issue could be sold here at quotations, unless an occasional sale to some person intending to sell again in Richmond.

I have sent \$250.000 of the Sinking Fund—old issue—bonds to Lancaster and Co. They have been selling at 25 premium, and think they will go higher. They have made me no remittances yet.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH Feb. 23d 1863.

Lancaster and Co. have sent me \$75.000 for which a certificate issues today to Sinking Fund. They say \$50.000 would start yesterday. They acknowledge receipt of the \$250.000 which have been sent and ask for \$50.000 more which will be sent to-day. Most of the sales are at \$125—some at $125\frac{1}{2}$ —some at 126.

From Frank G. Ruffin.

RICHMOND, Feby. 25. 1863.

My Dear Sir.

I sent you day before yesterday my reply to Mr. Foote and send you now by this mail the Report of the Committee in the case. That is very imperfect, its proceedings having been taken down by an unpractised short hand writer. But it contains one point of which I was ignorant, or I should have used with the effect of a round shot on the honourable gentleman. I mean the anonymous letter, which the committee had kept us ignorant of, and which got into the report by accident, they alleging that Mr. Foote had handed it to them not as testimony, but merely as a guide in their proceedings. You can readily perceive the

crushing use which might have been made of such a document thus insidiously introduced.

My friends express themselves well satisfied, as I hope you will be, with the finale of this business.

The committee will be ready in a few days to report on the contract itself, and as you have done us the honour to feel an interest in the matter, I will also send you the Report of that when it is out.

I duly recd, as you knew ere this, the very kind letter you sent introducing the young Judge whom I and my "really excellent wife" and her sisters had at dinner with us. I hope he has not told you, except as a joke, that after inviting him to tea I went out to dine and failed to keep my appointment by an hour or more, only returning in time to find him gone. When I saw how thin and wasted he had become I was rejoiced that his delegation and the administration had done themselves the justice to make him Judge. Seddon, by the way, said to me, "I want to ask you a question. This cousin of yours from North Carolina; Is he *really* a man of ability?" and I replied: "Yes. Not that I say it of my own knowledge; but his father has intimated to me that he was." "Oh! Well," he said, "I will appoint him anyhow. I reckon he is a chip of the old block."

Have you seen what a botch Mitchell (John, the Irishman), is making of our politics in the Enquirer. I was asked by Brown the President's aid, sometime ago, to try and get him in that position, as the President wished it, and I declined at once, for several reasons, some of which, I think, are already apparent. I do not really know whether Davis wanted him or not, but if he did, it is only another proof of his lamentable want of judgment of the characters and capacities of men. I great fear he has too little brain to see the brains of other people.

Remember me most kindly, and also Ellen, to our Aunt Annie and our numerous cousins, whom we would gladly know much better than we do, and will, I hope, if the war leaves us money enough to travel on; tell me freely when I can further any purpose you have whether of a public or private nature and believe me very truly and clannishly

Your friend and kinsman

FRANK G. RUFFIN.

P. S. I sent Mr. Davis word that you had called on him, but learning he had not recd. the message I wrote him a little note to the same effect.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Near Graham

Alamance co. N. C.

[ENCLOSURE.]

From Burton Harrison to Frank G. Ruffin.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
RICHMOND, VA. Feb. 25, 1863.

Major F. G. Ruffin
Richmond, Va.
Sir.

I am directed by the President to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th inst: in reference to the failure of Judge Ruffin to meet him at his house as invited.

The President regrets not having seen the Judge, and will be happy if you can, in writing to him, present his compliments and assurances of regard.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Obt: Sert:

BURTON N. HARRISON
Private Secretary.

From Edmund Ruffin, Jr.

RUTHVEN PR. GEORGE CO.
Feby. 26th 1863.

Yesterday in Richmond I was much gratified at receiving your letter to me and also one to Jane, which awaited me at Lancaster's. It was entirely owing to my not going to Richmond sooner that I did not receive the letters earlier. The certificates of stock you sent had all been received and sold—and I found the money ready wherewith to make my payment to Mr. Sayre. Lancaster had failed to notify me of the transaction which made me fear before I left Marlbourne that he had not received the certificates, and which caused Jane to write as she did in one of her last letters that they had not been received—but I found all right and have the satisfaction of informing you that every dollar of my share of the purchase of Marlbourne has been paid. I was especially pleased to hear that you were so much gratified at your hasty visit to us—and that you so highly approved our investment—the more I have thought on it, the more I am convinced that it was a judicious step—and you may rest satisfied that both Julian and I will be unwilling to sell except at such a price as is not likely to be offered. I confess

that at one time, in view of the enormous cost of the present year's operations, the uncertainty of the future the risk of losing the result of all our labors, and the former bad conduct of the negroes, I was very much disposed to sell—but the important question forces itself on my mind more and more each day, if we sell what are we to do with the money? My father, Jane and all of us agree with you that we ought to hold on to the land, unless at a most extravagantly high price. I left all well at M. As I had to come to Richmond over the worst kind of roads I determined to keep on to Petersburg and Prince George, at each of which places I had business to attend to. I found all my brothers well and my Father, Julian and Lottie desire to be kindly remembered by you and your household. I found my house at Beechwood as usual, broken down, the farm a grazing common for my neighbors, and everything stolen that the rogues can lay their hands on. I to day rented out the fishery and made arrangements for selling the fruit, should it be a good fruit year, we half for the other half. I have also moved down a negro woman and her children to protect the house and lot—for without some protection the window blinds, and sash will soon be broken or removed. I shall also aim to rent out a portion of the land for a share of the crop, so that when I can move back, I shall have a little something to go on upon—this will however be hard to effect, as so much land is lying idle hereabouts. If I could have the stock kept off, a very large amount of clover hay might be cut, and very likely I can have that saved in shares. I even think that quite a crop of volunteer wheat and oats may possibly be reaped. The month of Feby. has been so very unfavorable, that I have not ploughed at Marlbourne more than 25 acres since you were there,—with a good season and if let alone by the Yankees, I however still count on a big crop of corn. We are also making preparations to have a large and abundant garden. We will be very glad to receive the potatoes, for yesterday in Rd. I could not buy a bushel. Bacon was up to 1.10c—Fresh beef \$1.00. I bought bacon in Petersburg at 100c How we, who were driven from our homes, can feed our negroes, or the govt. our army I do not understand.

I did not forget your commission to pay your debt of honor to Marbury. I did not do it however as I passed through Petersburg, for want of time, the roads being so dreadfully bad that I reached the town at 10 o'clock one night and left early the next day,—but I will certainly attend to it next Monday on my return. . . .

[Address: Graham N. C.]

[P. S.] Mr. Marbury says Miss Nancy paid him for the tea-pots.

E. R. JR.

From Jonathan Worth.

RALEIGH, Feb. 26th, 1863.

Lancaster and Co have remitted to me, received here on the following dates—\$75.000 Feb. 23d—\$50.000 Feb. 24—\$50.000 Feb. 25—and \$50.000 Feb. 26th. I keep them supplied with bonds as fast as they require them, and issue certificates to the Sinking fund as I get the money.

[P. S.] When we finish the sale of the old 6^s, how would it do for you to sell the new 6^s now worth 7 per cent. and likely to go higher, and invest in others at par. I think I would be justified in the operation and that it would tend to improve the credit of the State.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH Feb. 27th, 1863.

I recd this morning from Lancaster and Co a further remittance of \$53.000 for sale of State bonds for comrs. of Sinking Fund. The enterprise is proving quite a success.

You ask me "how long" the Treasury can be sustained by the present supply. If I can succeed, as I hope I can, in getting our disbursing officers, to make up their accounts properly and *promptly*; and they are met as I believe they will be, by the Confederate Govt, I anticipate no further trouble. The depressed condition of our Finances when I took office, is attributable not to any deficiency in the ways and means, not to any want of punctuality at Richmond, but to remissness in presenting our claims, supported by proper vouchers.

The enormous floating debt to our Banks, (not far for \$3.000.000) is an incubas on us. I have asked the Banks to allow me to begin to pay or to fund in our new 6^s. Most of them will fund, perhaps all. I deem it just to the Banks to fund this floating debt in our 6 per cent bonds at par.

Your wishes in relation to the coupons falling due 1 Mar. will be carried out. I am as solicitous to nurse the Sinking fund as you can be, believing it of vast importance to sustaining our high credit.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA., Feby 28th 1863

Your favor of 23^d inst has been recd. We have delayed our reply a day or two, awaiting the action of Congress in regard to the finances. But their action is yet very uncertain, and we think the price of 8 per ct. Conft. bonds depend upon their action. With all the light we have now we would advise you to invest in the 8 per ct. Confederate, Convertible bonds. They have 10 years to run and are convertible into currency at par at the pleasure of the holder. They are selling at 4 per ct. premium, but they will probably continue to bear that premium and so soon as you can see more clearly what will be the effect on the price of the 8 per ct. 100,000,000 issue bonds of the action of Congress, you can decide whether it is best to hold the Convertible bonds, or sell, and buy the regular 8^s, or N. C. 6^s we do not think the latter can continue to command a premium. It is difficult to obtain the 8 per ct 100,000,000 issue bonds now, having longer than 7 years to run. We think it would be well for you to change yr. call loan Conft. bond, into Convertible 8^s and 100,000,000 issue 8^s, (If we can get them of long date) an equal amt. of each. We have sent Mr. Worth over \$300,000. What was the precise amt. you wished to sell for the Sinking fund? We are working the price up gradually. Now 127 and 128½. The demand is in consequence of the unexpected increase in the number of Blockade runners. The back coupons being on the bonds will make them sell more readily and perhaps a little higher.

From George V. Strong.

GOLDSBORO March 3d

A. D. 1863

Dear Sir—

A question has been presented to me in the course of my official duties, which embarrasses me, and which being of very considerable importance ought if possible to be decided correctly. I have therefore made bold to ask your opinion upon it, feeling sure that it will thereby be settled, in the minds of North Carolinians at least. A., a native of New York, but a citizen of North Carolina on the 20th of May 1861, on the 16th of December last joined the enemy at Kinston, the place of his residence, and is with them still. Is his property liable to confiscation under our Act of Congress? The term "alien enemy," is used to designate those who are subject to the provisions of the Act, and there is

nothing in the Act itself to qualify in any way its ordinary meaning. I mention this fearing you may not have a copy of the Act.

I do not write to the Attorney General, C. S. A. because he has positively declined to give me any opinion on matters of the kind. The case I put above is one of many of the same kind.

Hoping that your useful life may be prolonged for yet many years of health and happiness, I am Dear Sir, Ever truly Yours

GEORGE V. STRONG

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Sr.

P. S.—The act of adhering to the enemy was subsequent to the passage of the Act of Congress, which is *not prospective* in its terms. I think that for this reason the property is not liable to sequestration, but the other is the question on which I desire your opinion.

From Peter Browne Ruffin.

CO. SHOPS March 4th/63.

Will you allow me to consult you on a matter—in which Thos. Cain and myself are greatly interested and are at a loss how to act.

As you will see from the enclosed act of the late Legislature, we are to be taxed all nett profits of our Yard over and above 75 per ct. upon the cost of production. Some 4 months ago we contracted with the Rail Road to tan for them 1200 Hides, they paying us one half of the Hides for tanning the rest, a very profitable contract so long as we were allowed to get the market value for our part of the leather, but as I construe this Act a very poor one at the price we will be required to sell for now.

As I interpret the meaning we in this case (as we have made no outlay for the Hides) are only to charge 75 pr. Ct. upon the expenses we incur—namely upon the cost of the bark—Oil—hire of laborers—interest on the buildings, etc., etc., which instead of being a profitable contract will be but a pittance of what we supposed when we entered into it—for the actual cost of tanning the number will not be over 8000 or \$10,000 Dollars upon which we will realize \$7,500—While on the other hand if we were to purchase the Hides of the Road at the price, they paid for them \$20,000—paying them Cash down—and they agreeing to take from us when tanned one half of the leather for \$20,000, we would have the right to charge 75 pr. Ct. on the first cost of the Hides and the Cost of production added. It cannot be said that the purchase is not a genuine one, for we pay the money down and take all the risk.

Will you do me the favor to write me at Hillsboro by the mail of Friday if you can and if not, certainly by Saturday giving me your views

and advice. I am anxious to get your letter then as I shall want to make arrangements to have our note discounted for the money to pay the bill, if you advise us to do so.

I have written this in my office with two or three talking around me—so that I fear you will have trouble to interpret my meaning.

[Enclosure]

(18) Merchants, merchant-tailors, jewellers, grocers, druggists, produce dealers, commission merchants, factors, produce brokers and all other traders not taxed on their purchases in some other paragraph of this schedule are taxed one-half of one per cent on the total amount of their purchases, whether made in or out of the State, for cash or on credit. Every person or corporation, manufacturing cotton or woollen cloth, (after the 1st day of Jan. 1863,) or a mixture of both, leather, shoes, boots, flour, salt, implements of husbandry, wagons, wagon harness and all articles manufactured out of leather, clothing and iron; and every other person who as principal or agent for another, carries on the business of manufacturing any of the foregoing articles, are taxed all nett profits above seventy-five per cent, upon the cost of production.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA., March 6th 1863

There has been a most astonishing advance in the price of N. C. 6^s in consequence of the demand from persons running the blockade to Europe, and the advance in the price of gold in New York. Until to-day, the highest price obtained for the Sinking Fund bonds was 31½ for Octo. bonds. This morning we recd \$50,000 more of Octo. bonds, and sold \$40,000 of them @ 36½.

The demand for Conft. 8^s continues very active.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH. Mar 6th 1863.

Lancaster and Co. under date of the 4th inst., write me, that they have sold all the N. C. 6^s on hand and ask for the balance. I sent them to-day \$57,000 which closes out. They say they are now selling at 130 to 131½.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—March 8—1863—

Will you be coming down to Raleigh about the last of this month—or “Easter,” which is the 1st Sunday in April? I promised Kenneth he should come down home and stay a few days about Easter, and in his letter, received yesterday, he reminds me of my promise, and says he shall hold me to it. I had thought if you were coming down about that time, he might come with you—and perhaps return with you.

What think you of the “signs of the times”? For myself, I feel more gloomy, than I have done, for some time past. Up to within 10 days ago, I felt very hopeful we should have peace, by May or June. Now I regard a duration of the war as certain for another year until the newly-elected Yankee Congress is inaugurated—unless there is a revolution at the North. The late acts passed through the Yankee Congress, placing the entire physical and financial resources of their country, at the absolute disposal of Lincoln, gives him the *power* to carry on the war; and we know he has the *will* to do it. Will there be a revolution at the North? How can we hope for it if Kentucky, with all her boasted chivalry and love of freedom, quietly submits to the late high-handed measure of a Yankee Colonel, dispersing the Democratic Convention, at the point of the bayonet? How can we expect any thing in New York city, if the order of Wool to disarm the entire population, is quietly submitted to? Does it not prove that every vestige of manly independence has been crushed out of those people—and that they are ready and willing to be slaves? True, we might expect an open mutiny, on the part of the 300,000 Yankee soldiers, whose enlistment expires in May—if there was any thing noble or manly, to be looked for in a Yankee. For there is a very great difference, between fighting for their own homes and families, as was the case with our conscribed soldiers and, being *forced* into an aggressive warfare. Then again if the Democrats carry New-Hampshire in this month, and Connecticut in April, their Governors elect on the platforms on which they are running, will be virtually committed against allowing any one to be conscribed from either of those States. But really I fear these popular demonstrations will be every where suffused by bayonets; and that a complete reign of terror, similar to that which prevailed in France will actually prevent every man from even whispering his grievances to his neighbor.

You may rely on it, the Yankees intend to carry their barbarities to an extent tenfold greater than they have yet done. I notice the account from middle Tennessee, that they are declaring nothing shall be raised to eat, the present year—and that they are destroying all the implements of industry, burning barns and fences, and killing all the stock, so that no farms can be cultivated this year. Again I see, that the

Yankee Commodore Porter has just issued an order, declaring that any one of our people who may burn cotton, or fire on one of their transports, if taken, shall be hung. You may rely on it, my friend, here, after all, is our great danger, unless our government can be aroused to the indispensable necessity of defending and protecting our own people. If our government continues to tolerate these barbarities, our people will be crushed into submission, wherever, the Yankee power may extend. It could be all stopped, and stopped summarily, if our government would exhibit the proper firmness. I see it stated in a paper, a day or two since, that Prest. Davis had revoked the order for retaliation by hanging the same number of Yankees that were murdered, of our men, by Mr. Neil in Missouri. Between you and me, I fear Davis has not enough of old Genl. Jackson in him, to suit this crisis.

Have you read the address of Genl. D. H. Hill, on taking command of the troops in this State? That is in my opinion, the way to talk it—and I hope he will act out what he evidently feels. By the way, I heard day before yesterday that Longstreet with two divisions would be in Goldsboro in a day or two, with a view to pounce down on Newbern and capture the whole concern, and that he had telegraphed to all the presses in this part of the State, to say not a word on the subject.

Since I saw you, I have thought a great deal upon the subject of our finances—our immense debt—our currency etc. I had thought up to within a short time past, that Confederate securities were good. I begin to be very much at fault, to know what to think. I do not speak of the consequences of our being subjugated. Suppose we do succeed, after another year's duration of the war. Believing we should have peace by May or June, I supposed the Confederate States could manage a debt of 8 or 10 hundred millions of Dollars. But another year's war, at the present enormously high price of every saleable article, will cost the country 500,000,000 or \$600,000,000. *Can* we stand such a debt, bearing such an enormously high rate of interest—or rather, *will* the people stand it? Why, the present prices remind me of what I have heard of the time of the old revolution. Corn is now selling at 20 to 21 dollars a barrel at vendue, bacon at \$1.15 to \$1.20 a pound—flour at \$40. Common scrub sows sold at a sale near here a few days since at \$100 a piece. And these prices are tending higher and higher every day. I have not a doubt, but Bacon will be \$2 a pound by the first of April. Is it not strange, that this state of things does not strike thinking men with alarm—is it not still stranger that it does not arouse our imbecile Congress at Richmond to the importance of grappling with this difficulty at once? Why don't they impose a tax of \$150,000,000, without further gabbling? The danger is that the public sentiment of the country will settle down to the idea that the government never will pay its obligations—and if so, the legislation will soon accommodate itself to that idea.

To me, the future looks dark and forbidding. True, a signal success to our arms at Vicksburg and Charleston would go far towards calming and reassuring the feelings of the country. My only hope and faith are in a just and merciful God, who has declared to us again and again, in that Book which is the record of his will, that the prosperity of the wicked shall be only temporary—in the prowess and self-sacrificing spirit of our *army*—and in some half dozen of our commanding Generals. I say some half dozen of our Generals; for really I think Prest. Davis a very unfortunate man in his estimation of military capacity. Look at our own State for instance. Evans, is by general consent of everybody, proven utterly unfit to command an army. But because he led a regiment or two gallantly and successfully at Ball's Bluff, where the Yankees placed themselves just where our man wanted them, he is made commander at a most important point; and instead of driving off the enemy, he has been guzzling whiskey all the Summer and Fall. Smith is then sent, as Commander—Prest. Davis taking it for granted that because he proved to be an able and scientific professor at West Point, he must necessarily be a good commander in the field. In Arkansas, a very important field of operations, Holmes is put in chief command—and by universal consent, he is regarded there, just as he was here—a *very slow team*. Whilst Price, who knows that people and that country, has been kept in a quasi obscurity on this side the Mississippi. Bragg is a great favorite of Davis—and between you and me I don't believe we are likely to succeed on that line as long as he is retained in chief command. He does not possess the confidence of his army; *and he knows it*. I do not get this from Gen. Polk but through other channels, which I could explain to you in person. That horrid butchery of Breckenridge's division at Murfreesboro, was rash, ill-timed, stupid, and should have subjected him to a court-martial, and look at Humphrey Marshal—still retained in a most important command in East Tennessee and South Western Virginia—a man who has failed every where. He is a man of talents—but bull-headed conceit and vanity are his predominant traits.

I saw Badger a few days ago. I was passing by and he saw me, and expressed a wish to see me. *He is a wreck*. He seems to be cheerful, or at least, tries to seem so. But he evidently understands his situation. . . . He was sitting up in his parlor—and has I learn ridden out once or twice. Poor fellow! I fear he is about done with this world—although he may possibly hold on for some years.

* * * * *

I ought to beg your pardon for inflicting such a long epistle on you, and all for nothing. I felt somewhat overburthened with the cares and difficulties of the times, that getting a-going, I have written at

undue length. In fact, I have so long been in the habit of deferring to your judgment in all things, that when in difficulty and doubt, I feel a disposition to confer with you.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

[P. S.] When you save turnip seed, I want you to think of me again. I intended to have saved a great many—but latterly, such crowds of depredators took to carrying off my turnips, and cutting the salad, I found there would soon be none left, and so I sent my negroes and had them all pulled up.—

From Lancaster and Company.

LANCASTER & CO.

successors to

John L. Lancaster & Son.

Stockbrokers,

RICHMOND, VA. March 11th 1863.

Judge Thos. Ruffin

Graham, Alamance Co. N. C.

Dear Sir.

We have now to report a sale of N. C. 6s for the Sinking Fund @ 150. They may go higher, and we will not hurry off the balance of the bonds.

Truly yours

LANCASTER AND Co.

From Phillip A. Wiley.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH Mch. 16th, 1863.

Your letter of 14th Inst, is to hand. Mr. Worth is absent and will be for a few days. Mr. W. is under the impression that he will not have to sell any Bond for some time to come,—if at all. On his return he will reply to your letter at length.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND VA March 17th 1863.

We have received from Mr. Worth \$457.000 of N. C. 6s on acct. of the Sinking Fund. of which we have only \$21.500 unsold. We made a sale today as high as 165.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND VA March 23, 1863.

From the enclosed slip you will learn the result of the labours of Congress for the improvement of the currency. Strange that they should expect to improve the currency by depreciating it. They expect to force men to put their notes into bonds, forgetting that the note holder has the option of investing in anything else if it is not to his interest to take bonds. And the note holder must be blind indeed if he does not see in this action of Congress a guarantee of a larger profit on anything he may purchase than he could make by investing in Conft. bonds.

If you can see any good to result from this bill, please let us know what it is.

We are nearly thro with the Sinking Fund bonds. Have about \$14.000 left. Made a sale today at 180.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO, March 24th 63.

I see by your note to my wife that you hold some 2 or 3 bushels of Sugar Cane Seed to my order. I shall take all that you will give me with my best bow and thanks for I am resolved on a supply of sweetening for my boy Benehan who would give his dogs and suspender buttons and all for a barrel of molasses. And I would send *instantly* for the seed but will wait to see if my wife has any interest in the banks of your seed—So that when I get the Sugar Cane Seed she shall have the potatoes. Just here let me ask that you will give me for the benefit of my overseer a Memorandum with the Sugar Cane Seed, as to the soil planting and cultivation—that they may have the benefit of your experience with the Crop. My man George told me that you wished to put one Mare or two to my Morgan Horse—just send them along when it best suits you and all shall be attended to in due time. I returned from Wilmington on Sunday last, where I went to look after the comfort of some 19 Conscript negroes on the works at that place—and thought it prudent to employ a man at \$2 per day to look after the health and comfort of my people. First we had the panic about arms—next the supply of powder—then next the salt—now it is meat and bread. Let us all do our *best* to make food. Have planted 81 bushels of Irish potatoes and shall plant some 40 more—and every foot of land shall do its best. So that I can get a little tobacco for my own use and those who beg a quid of me and cotton enough to cover my people I dont care for those over the water or any where else. Let us demon-

strate to the world that for food and clothing we are *self* dependant. Mr. Collins will I hope be able to go back to his post of duty in the next week. Our Bishop is to be with us next Sunday—now cant you and Mrs. Ruffin just drive out to the R.R. about $\frac{1}{2}$ after 4 and be with us at 7 o'clock on Saturday night. I will have the carriage at the Station for you or any of your household. But I should be very glad to see you and Mrs. Ruffin here—as would all your people Men Women boys and girls. Mr. Curtis has been very poorly for some time and looks badly.

To Colonel Murray.

ALAMANCE March 25th 1863.

Colo. Murray.

Sir.

Agreeably to your orders I send you two of my men, to comply with the requisition of the Governor on the slave owners of this County. I would have waited on you in person for this purpose, if I were well enough to go out. As I am not, I send these men by my Overseer, Mr. Duncan, who will deliver them to you and bring back the Receipt for them, which, I suppose, you or some proper officer will give. The name of one them is *Osborn*, who is of the age of 29 years, and of the other is *Richmond*, of the age of 28 years. They are both field hands, healthy and strong, of the black African colour; and they are provided with rations for three or four days.

I am, Sir, your friend and Svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

I hope Mr. Hughes will be allowed by the commanding General to take charge of the hands from this County and superintend their work, and that he will be able to keep them together in one squad.

[Address: Colo. Murray

Graham

Mr. Duncan.]

From G. W. Lea.¹

Judge Ruffin. Dr. Sir. Col. Murray is not here to-day, and I cannot give you a Recpt. without he was present. I will take the Negroes to Wilmington and deliver them to Genl. Whiting and will take his recpt

¹ Written at bottom of preceding letter, in pencil.

for them, with the owners name and age of each Slave, which Recpt. I will on my return from Wilmington file in the clerks office in Graham, which I think will be sufficient in case of the loss of the Slave.

G. W. LEA

Mar 25/63.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Mar. 27th 1863.

I had got the Treasury in condition that I could be absent a few days without detriment to the public and went to Randolph two weeks ago to give some attention to my personal affairs. I returned day before yesterday and found many letters to answer among which were yours of the 14th inst.

All the requisitions on the Treasury have been met in full for the past month and I have now $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions on hand, which I can use—and some \$700,000 audited and due from the Confederate Government, which I suppose will be paid in due season—and an arrangement has been made, through the Adgt Gen's Department by which we are promised monthly payments for our expenditures on acct of the Con. Govt. If this arrangement be faithfully carried out, I do not foresee the period when I shall be under the necessity of selling State bonds. My impression is that our State bonds will continually appreciate, if our affairs in the field shall not be unfortunate. I am also authorized to issue $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions in Treasury notes. This is a discretionary power. I am having the lithographing done and will probably have the notes ready in a few weeks. I am not certain I shall use them. They will be my corps de-reserve.

I make this frank explanation to enable you, as far as the mutability of financial affairs will allow, to execute your trusts to the best advantage.

I expect to be continually here for months. You can appoint your meeting of the Com^{rs}. of the Sinking Fund at such time as you may deem expedient, but I would suggest that you postpone making the appointment until Lancaster and Co. shall have finished their sales and rendered their acct.

I am using every exertion to get our new 6 per cent. bonds prepared, but have no prospect of getting them short of 4 or 5 weeks. Would you not rather they should be ready before your proposed meeting?

From Solomon Dixon.

SNOW CAMP, N. CA.

Mar. 27th/63.

We are engaged in working for the public, for Farmers, Mills, and Factories. We have made all the powder mill irons and are making a lot at this time. We have had our hands regularly detailed up to this time. They say they cannot detail at Raleigh, that we are not working for the government as our contract was with Waterhouse and his for the government. We have fit up a great deal of work for most all of the gunshops and have done more for the government to the number of hands detailed than any other shop within my knowledge. We have kept up all the Factories in this part of the country and are keeping them up at this time. We have a last lot of machinery fitting up for iron works and they are wanting at this time. We have promised a large lot of cane mills. The number of hands we ask detailed is only six and they are hands we can not get along without. We have no contract with the government directly, only as above stated. I understand from August that we will have to go to the secretary of war and the papers have been sent up there by August the commandant of conscripts. I wish to employ you a citizen of this county, if you will to attend to it and get the detail and forward it to us and I will pay all charges for your trouble and expenses. I would like for you to go to Richmond if you think best and feel able to make the trip, will you be so kind as to attend to this soon and let me hear from you soon. Unless we can get those hands detailed, we will be compelled to shut up shop as their places can not be filled in my knowledge.

[P. S.] I have got John Bass on my farm and he wants to sell me his services for five years for a certain amount of money. I wish to know if he can do it and if I can hold him, if so please send me an instrument of writing in proper form and also your fee for the same and I will forward you the money the first opportunity.

[P. S.] Also, another free fellow John Carter wishes to sell himself to Wm. D. Henley for five years if these fellows can sell themselves to us and we can hold them as servants for said time I want you to draw the necessary writings and send them to me, one for each, and I will forward the money on receipt of them and the amount of your fee. Wm. D. Henley and myself both live in Chatham Co.

Please send those papers by the bearer of this and oblige.

[Address: Alamance N. C.]

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—March 28—1863

I learn Bishop Atkinson will be coming down from your neighborhood on Saturday next. Will he not be at your house—and will he not go directly to the railroad from your house? If so, can you not arrange for Kenneth to come down with the Bishop?—or will you be coming down, in the course of the ensuing week? If so, I would prefer he should come down with you rather than trouble the Bishop. Please write me a line on the subject. I have a favor to ask of you. I know of no one but yourself who has the genuine *Yam* potato. I want to get a peck, or say half a peck of the plantings. It is now about the time for bedding them. If you take up yours for bedding during the coming week, will you be so kind as to have put up for me a small quantity in a little bag, and let Kenneth bring them down to me?

I hope you will be down before a great while. When you do come, let me know beforehand, that I may send to the depot for you. I have a great many things to talk to you about, when I see you.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT. 7th April 1863.

It is so long since I heard from you, that I must, in legal phrase, “hasten you by request” to let me hear from you and yours. How are you? And how are they? And what are you doing? As for myself I am doing all that a very old man can do, after walking over the plantation, when the weather permits, seldom riding, seeking to make *this* years supplies for the soldiers. My Tob^o. (150 or 160 thousand) is still on hand—have concluded recently to sell all of my lugs and *lend* to the Government. My leaf being all shipping quality—will hold and probably *insure*. Sales have been made within the last week or so as high as 70 and \$80. I would sell all but fear our currency, especially since *every member from this State in the H.R. voted against the tax Bill*, the very *best* remedy for our inflated circulation; I would have taken it with all its imperfections, under a protest. It is a strange opinion that a war can be prosecuted without Taxes. My wheat crop will be a failure, so will my oat crop. I have made much manure but shall bulk it for seeding wheat next Fall. Will *it hurt under cover*? I have added to my stocks much since I saw you. I bought a Bble of Sugar the other day for \$312 (\$1.25 pr. lb) and Cotton cards at \$24 pr Pair. I want

Iron, steel, Hoe, axes and Ploughs and know not where to get them. I can think of no more to tell you about myself except that we are all well and bear composedly the coming and going events of the times.

I see the Revenue law taxes "stocks and Dividends in all Rail Roads." We know they cant tax the first in the R. and G. R. Road, and if they tax the latter—Dividends—do they not indirectly tax the stock, and abrogate the compact made with the state upon full and fair consideration. I think so—yet wish to do, in listing *my* taxes—what *others do* altho' I think we are *more bound* to uphold the Constitution than any law contravening it. The Conf. Govt. is aiming too to tax Dividends—can it—under the R. and G. R. Road Charter or from the old 6 pr Cents? Our Board should look to these questions—as the sinking fund *may* be impaired by these imposts.

As I want to do right—pray give me yr. opinion on these matters. Apropos—I had written my resignation as Comssr, of the S. Fund, and Dr. Hawkins came over and dissuaded me from sending it—Whereupon I threw it into the fire. My chief motive in doing so was to continue still my association with *you*. So recollect this—and do not resign, and leave me in Harness—without due notice.

* * * * *

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.
Near Graham N. C.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—April 8th, 1863.

When are you coming down here? Pleased, as I always am to see you, I never wanted to see you as much in my life, as I do now.

* * * * *

I am very thankful for the potato plants you sent me. I hope to *get in seed* from them. Nothing new, in regard to war-matters. Gen. Hill, we hear, has Washington entirely invested; and his delay is no doubt owing to his wish to take the place without too great loss of life. It is said that the Yankee Commander *refuses* to allow the women and children to leave in pursuance of Genl. Hill's notification to that effect. And yet I heard today, that the patriotic women of the town had sent word to Genl. Hill to "shell away"—that they would try to take care of themselves. I also learn that a few nights since 2000 negroes tried to slip through Gen. Hill's lines, and get off, but were driven back by our soldiers. They had no fancy for the bloody work on hand.

* * * * *

Hon. Thos Ruffin
Alamance, N. C.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 15 April 1863.

It has occurred to me that you may desire a meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund before a great while, and that to prevent disappointment so far as I am concerned it may be wise to intimate when it will not be convenient for me to attend. Our Senior examinations will begin on Monday 20th proximo, and the Report be read out on Saturday 2d May. I beg therefore to be excused during that week, and to be entirely at your service, at any other time previous to Commencement week, closing with the Commencement exercises 4th June, when I will be very glad to meet you here instead of at Raleigh.

I have at no previous period of my life watched and waited for intelligence of decisive results, in such agony of suspense as during the last two days. From the Rappahannock, from Washington, Vicksburg, Murfreesboro and Charleston, simultaneous intelligence of startling events may perhaps reach us by tomorrow's mail. Thus far affairs at Charleston wear a most favorable aspect. The telegram of Van Dorns conflict at Franklin, on the other hand is rather disheartening. Rosencrants is I suppose the ablest of the northern generals and a match if not more than a match for Gen. Bragg.

The currency as I have long apprehended, presents the greatest difficulties which the Confederacy has to encounter. The depreciation in Confederate notes, is pretty nearly equal to that of Continental money at the corresponding period of the American Revolution.

From Nicholas L. Williams.

PANTHER CREEK 30th April 1863.

I understand that there is a movement on foot to procure for John Kerr the appointment of one of the Judges of the Court of claims about to be established by Congress. I hope it is not asking too much of you, to request the favour of recommending him to the appointing power. Our friend Boyden, and others told me that Judge Kerr discharged the duties of Judge while on the circuit to the entire satisfaction and approval of the bar, perhaps more so than any other Judge had done for many years.

Remember me kindly to Mrs. Ruffin and your household—and believe me your sincere friend and Obt. Servt.

N. L. WILLIAMS.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND VA. May 20th 1863.

We have been unable as yet to sell any of your N. C. 6s. They have been very dull. We have been very anxious to close the bonds belonging to the Sinking Fund, but have not succeeded. We are holding them at 175 flat. I think there is some prospect for a better demand. Dont think it advisable to force N. C. bonds in market just now, as currency is becoming very abundant again and all undoubted securities will soon be in demand.

From Nicholas L. Williams.

PANTHER CREEK, 22d May, 1863.

Your letter in answer to mine in regard to the appointment of Mr. Kerr, etc., was recd. a day or two since. I have no information in regard to the passage of the law establishing the Court of Claims. I very seldom see any thing in regard to the doings of that body. I will write to Mr. Kerr upon the subject. I presume he is at least well posted upon the matter.

If nothing happens I will go to Chapel Hill to Commencement, and will do myself the pleasure of calling upon you. I will take my own conveyance so that I may see some of my good friends on the way.

* * * * *

From Frank G. Ruffin.

RICHMOND, May 23, 1863.

I want some advice and information in regard to Schools, and as you spoke highly of two in your section I venture to ask you for a more particular account of each, than it was necessary to get when we talked over the matter here. Our Schools are too near the seat of war: both boys and tutors are always in an excitement of some kind or another: and that is very unfavourable to progress in learning. One of my boys, Nicholas, is fifteen years of age, well grown, well advanced, and the quickest boy at his books that I know. The other and next in age, George is nearly fourteen, but not well advanced, bashful, indolent, timid, *quoad* his teachers and me, with a very good mind; and Frank,

eleven years old, is very smart, quite industrious, very waggish, very saucy, very loveable—if he has half a chance he will adopt my dear Aunt Annie as his grandma and hang upon her all day—and, I suspect,—for I have hardly seen him since the war,—not very well advanced. The principles of all them, I thank God and their Mother's purity, are first rate. None of my boys swear, drink, chew tobacco, smoke, play cards or tell lies; and they all ride well, which is the foundation of out door manliness at the South. I think it best if the school will suit all that they should go to the same school as the older will be a quasi guardian for the younger ones, and they will be a check on him, when he feels the responsibility of the charge. Under other circumstances it might be different, but in this case on the above condition I think it preferable they should be together.

You and Aunt Annie have so many cares of the kind, and are getting old too, that I do not wish to impose upon either of you any of the care of these children, though it is certainly a recommendation that they shall be near you. But if Alice is not overburdened with her charge and Sterling not too wild I will take it as a kindness in them to let them know occasionally that there is a quasi parental eye watching them.

You may have seen that our cousin Henry has failed to receive the appointment of collector of war taxes. I am truly sorry for it. He is cruelly afflicted by Tom's death, as gallant a man as ever fell in battle, and this disappointment adds to his grief. Mr. Memminger had promised Hunter to appoint him, and Cousin Henry told me if he failed that he should ascribe it to that Court Martial scrape of his son Algeron; but my impression is that Memminger failed to keep faith with him. I do not think him a man to keep faith with any one.

I am a well man. Neither Seddon nor Northrop would agree that I should resign. A furlough ad infinitum I could take; but I must not resign. I, sick and feeble, determined to put that matter beyond a peradventure by making myself sicker and feebler. This I would accomplish by taking sugar with my tea, by eating fish, and that with catsup; by eating stewed peaches, and pickles, and acid, whenever I could get them. "You are very wrong," said my excellent wife, "you will get sick sure enough." "The very thing I am after," I said, and eat away, wilfully, violating all my doctor's directions. And behold at the end of a fortnight I am getting strong and hearty; indeed am in better health than I have been since the war commenced. It would seem as if Providence had decided the question; and I submit.

Are you uneasy about Vicksburg? So am not I. If it fall, God's will be done; but the cause is not gone; nor near it. What the wires may bring before this letter leaves town I know not. But let me tell you *confidentially*: Johnson's T/g as you saw in the papers *plus* this, which you did not see, for it was not published: "I hear there are two month's provisions in Vicksburg. If this be so, and I am reinforced, I think I

can relieve him. Send me Anderson's Cavalry from Georgia." He has been, and will be still further reinforced.

The account you will have seen in our papers of today means in my judgment nothing but a repetition with press variations of Johnson's T/G. Certain it is that up to three o'clock today (it is now 8. P.M.) there has been nothing T/G from Johnson except a dispatch, recd, yesterday and dated 21., which said not one word about it, and merely related to a question of promoting certain officers.

Lee is getting ready to move, in fact his cavalry in strong force are now beyond the Rappahannock whither he is bound I know not, but he has made very heavy requisition on us in this Bureau for funds.

All the above in confidence.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham P. O.

Alamance Co.

North Carolina.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA., May 25th, 1863

We have closed out the Sinking Fund bonds and those belonging to the Literary Fund, and have sold for your three accts about \$25,000 of N. C. 6^s. We commenced the sale on the 22d inst and have had quite an active demand. Made the first sale for the Sinking Fund, (closing out the lot) at 174, sold for you a day or two after, April bonds @ 176½ and 177½ and Apl. and Jany. bonds today @ 177½ and 179. Will not buy Conft. bonds for you yet as they may be lower.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA. May 29th, 1863

We have now only \$22,500 N. C. 6^s on hand belonging to your three accounts. Highest sale yet made 185 for Apl. bonds, we are now asking 190 for Jany. bonds. What shall we do about reinvesting? Our Banks have determined not to receive the 2d Sept. 1861 notes after 9th proxo. There are at least 100,000,000 of these notes out, not being fundable after the 1 Augt., and not receivable in Bank, most of them will go into 7% bonds, thereby greatly increasing the no. of bonds, which must we think cause a decline in price, will you await that decline, or shall we invest without delay?

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH. May 29th, 1863

I rec^d. to-day from Lancaster and Co, their final acc^t of sales of State bonds for Sinking Fund.

Total amt of sales		\$603.975.
Express charges, taking bonds to Richmond	\$113.50	
Coms	1,713.75	
Cash sent to me	602,147.75	603.975

I am now receiving bonds rapidly from the Lithographers—and can probably get them ready for issue before the 1 July. A vast number are to issue to the holders of certificates and to the banks in payment of the floating debt due to them from the State. I will endeavor to be ready to meet you at such time as you may appoint, but would prefer it should be before the 12th or about the last June. My overseer being taken away as a conscript, I must give personal attention to the saving of my wheat and oats.

The Va. banks have given notice that they will not receive or pay out after an early day in June (the 5th I believe) the confederate notes issued prior to Dec^r. 1862

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT. 2d. June 1863.

I learn that your friend Majr. Sloan of Greensboro fills the office of acting Commissary General for N. Carolina and as such has the appointment of *Assistant* Commissaries one for each of the four districts in which the State is divided. My friend Mr. Jacob Parker of Warrenton is an applicant for the office of Assistant or District Commissary for this division. Having but slight acquaintance with Majr. Sloan, I must ask the favor of you, if neither your feelings or judgment oppose—to oblige me so far as to recommend to him the appointment of Mr. Parker. He is the son in law of our old friend Wm. K. Kearney. He is a man of fine business Habits—active—industrious and faithful, of high Character, and *temperate* habits. He has long acted as agent in this County for the Confederate Government, is a Merchant and knows all the details of business. I will add that I doubt whether one better qualified can be found—and feel sure that neither you or Majr. Sloan would have cause to regret the selection. I hope I am not giving you

trouble. I know these sort of applications are sometimes perplexing—but in this instance I expect your forgiveness.

One word for myself. If I were a man of complaints—I would reproach you for not answering my last letter, written many weeks ago, inquiring about yourself and family. I am pleased however to learn from the "Citizen," that you and they were well. My Health is good, but almost every day furnishes some fresh memorial of the ravages of time, and, despite of me, I am forced to make note of it.

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To Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.
Graham N. C.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND VA. June 11th, 1863.

We wrote you on the 4th inst. sending sales of your N. C. bonds and reporting Conft. bonds dull with prospect for a decline.

The Conft. treasury notes of Sept 2nd/61 will be rapidly funded in 7% bonds, a large amt. of which must be thrown on market and cause a decline. We would like to have your instructions in regard to investing your funds now idle in our hands.

From Frank G. Ruffin.

RICHMOND, June 19, 1863.

I wrote you some two weeks or more ago a letter which, having received no answer to it, I presume you failed to get, and hence I write again.

It was in regard to the two schools you spoke to me of and at one, or the other, or both, of which I think sending three of my boys. Here they are so near the scene of war, that it is a great distraction, and disadvantage to them. At those schools they would, I presume, be much more quiet, their names in the order of their ages are Nicholas, George and Frank: 14, 12 and 11 years old. Nicholas is very well grown, and may be 15—for I never can recollect their ages. He is well advanced in his studies, is the quickest boy to learn I ever saw. George not so well advanced, not having been so well taught, with good capacity, but not fond of his book, and Frank not well advanced but a very smart little fellow. They are all boys of first rate principles, and have no vices nor bad habits.

You have so many of your own descendants under your charge that I will not ask, and do not expect, you to take three boys under your charge, though will find them clannish enough to claim kin with all of you. But one inducement to the schools in your neighborhood, as I have to send them away from home is to place them under the influence of your opinion, "you" meaning all the family, but referring more particularly to yourself, Aunt Anne and Alice.

I have no time to say more than to ask you in conclusion to give me the benefit of your knowledge and advice in the premises, and to name the terms and time of commencement of the schools. If I send the boys Ellen and myself will probably take them if your house is elastic enough to include us.

We are well satisfied with the performances and prospects of the Army of the North, against whom it is rumored, (from the Signal corps), that Lincoln has called for fifty thousand volunteers for temporary duty in the defence of Washington. But all who know all the facts, as unhappily as I do, are very seriously uneasy about Vicksburg, more especially as we are forced to the conclusion with the lights now before us that if it is saved it will not be by the Generalship of Johnston. The politics of its fall will be worse, I fear, than the military disaster.

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From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, June 24th, 1863.

I presume you will be coming down here soon. When you conclude to come down, write me a day or two beforehand, that I may have my carriage at the Depot for you. When you come please be so good as to bring the turnip-seed you intend for me—as it is my purpose to sow early this year. And please bring me some cuttings of the "old Bath" Pear, and of that South Carolina Pear, Genl. Gwynn gave you, that is so highly spoken of in that State.

At last we have had a plentiful season of rain—but not till day before yesterday. Everything is very much revived; but the corn is certainly sorrier than I ever saw it at this season. I have cut and threshed about 300 Bushels of wheat; and have now down in the field about 125 Bushels, which I hope to get in tomorrow. The wheat is very fine. I am sure that on 10 acres of a part of mine, I got 30 Bushels to the acre. Oats are very indifferent.

I had a sad visit to Hillsboro last week. I went up with Robin Jones remains. His poor wife is completely crushed and broken-hearted. It is really a most distressing case. Susan returned home only on Friday

last. I should have gone up for her, but Kenneth was very ill at the time. I was very uneasy about him, at one time; but he is much better, and is now up.

The news from the seats of war is encouraging, so far as regards the mere conflict of arms—and yet I confess I feel despondent. What does it amount to? We lose constantly our best, and bravest, and noblest sons; and their places cant be supplied. I can see nothing of good, to grow out of our incursion into Maryland—conducted as it is, on the *rose-water* system of Mr. President Davis and Genl. Lee. If Genl. Lee had gone there to make the Yankees “feel” their own policy of savage warfare—if he would burn their towns, lay waste their country, and leave a track of desolation behind him, then I should have approved of his going there; not that I approve of such a method of waging war, but because I think it would have put an end to it. But if, as it seems to be the case, he has gone there to make a bow, to cautiously abstain of touching private property, and to fight a battle perhaps then what good have we accomplished? It will I fear, arrest the operations of the “peace” movement, in the North—it will arouse, excite, and exasperate the wretches—it will add 100,000 men to Lincoln’s army.

I hope I may be mistaken—but really I dread the result.

Hon: Thos: Ruffin.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA. June 25th, 1863.

We wrote you on the 29th May informing you that we had nearly closed your N. C. 6^s. Again on the 4th June reporting the sale of the last of them and enclosing sales, and again on the 11th inst, each time asking for instructions in regard to reinvesting. You directed us to invest in 7^s or 8% bonds of the Confederacy as the writer might think best. But there was such a strong probability of a decline in the price of bonds in consequence of the action of Congress in regard to the old notes and the action of our Banks in throwing them out, that he thought it best to write to you for instructions. We have nothing from you as yet. Since our last the demand for Confederate bonds has been very much increased by the encouraging news from Vicksburg, and if we should have a decided victory there, a decline may be prevented. As it is a large amount for you to lose int. on, we have determined to buy for you, but will buy slowly, watching the market. We send a copy of this thro’ Raleigh.

From John M. Morehead.

GREENSBORO. 9th—July, 1863

I always dislike to be the bearer of unpleasant information, but at the request of yr. Overseer Mr Abbot I drop you this line to say, that the river yesterday at 12 Oclk. was within four feet of the great August freshet of 1850, and was rising rapidly. Abbot said it arose 4 Inches in 15 minutes when he left it. His wheat Oats, tobacco corn etc. greatly damaged, indeed all that would float was gone. He says the face of the waters from Hillside to Hillside was literally covered with shocks of wheat and it was piling up mountain high in places where it would lodge. He said you could best judge of the destruction by giving you the height of the water. Capt John G. Watling confirmed his statements.

My dear Sir—I have just returned from the discharge of a melancholy but pious duty, the depositing of the body of my venerable, beloved mother beside the body of my honor'd father in the spot selected thirty one years ago by herself as her final resting place. When last I saw her some two weeks since, at Major Hobsons in Davie she charged me to see that she was buried by father's side—she expired on monday morning as calmly as an infants sleep in her 92nd year. The lamp of life became extinguished for the want of material to support it.

As you never had two more sincere friends while living, I thought it would not be unacceptable to you to say they rest side by side on earth, and I fondly hope are again re-united in Heaven.

Say to your son Thomas I and Mrs Evans sincerely thank him for his kind letter, it was very consoling and another from Major McNeil corroborates the statements as to the hopeful condition of Col Evans.

The death of Col Henry Morehead of Typhoid fever is, to us all, a source of deep regret but we have so many children nephews and grand nephews in the army, we cannot hope that all will survive.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, July 15th, 1863.

The Treasury is now amply supplied with money, and is not likely to have occasion to raise money by loan, or to issue Treasury notes at any early day.

What do you propose to do with the large dividends shortly to be paid by the N. C. and R. G. Rail Roads? I presume a large part of

these payments will be made in the C. currency not fundable after the 1 Aug., and which I think will be depreciated in value after 1 Aug. I am ignorant when these payments will be made.

I think the money had better be invested in our 8 per cent bonds, which can probably be bought at 40 per cent premium. Is it not desirable that you call a meeting of the Comrs. of the sinking fund without delay.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
RALEIGH, July 16/63

Mr. Vass, Treasurer, of the R. G. R. R. Co, has been ready since the 7th inst. to pay Dividend No. 14 to the State \$68.250. They are willing to pay some \$45.000 in Con. 7 per cent. bonds at par.

Having no use for the money in the Treas^y. at this time, I have not called for the payment of this dividend.

Mr. Vass also informs me that the Co. have succeeded in getting their account against the State audited—and they are now willing to pay a 3 per cent. dividend declared some time ago, the payment of which they withheld until the State would settle their claims. They are now ready to pay this dividend.

If you are not very soon about to call a meeting of y^r. com^{rs}., please say what I am to do with the issues of Con. Currency, dated prior to 6 Apl, which the R. Roads will pay me.

From James Sloan.

GREENSBORO: N C.
July 20th 1863

In reply to Your esteemed favour of the 17th Inst, recd. this morning, I state that it will afford me pleasure to make the contract with Mr. Long as requested by you. I am requested to meet the board of appraisement for our State tomorrow at Raleigh, and will if not prevented by the Yankees visit Wilmington before I return, therefore I would suggest that Mr. Long does not visit Greensboro before Monday next.

The Qr. Masters Department is charged with the collection of the Tax in kind Should its officers condescend to consult with the chief

officer of the Comy. Dept for the state of N. C. He will be able from past experience, to give them at least some practical advise on the subject. (To this day however he has not been consulted)

A favourite plan with me is to deposit at the various merchant mills the wheat recd. by the tax collectors direct from the producers, thereby saving labour, storage and transportation. and have the grain cared for by the Millers instead of Gilt lace officials. But possibly I am not doing the officers in charge, justice by such suggestions, will patiently await their action.

If I have any direction in the premises, your mill be selected as a depository not only for the tax in kind but for purchasers by the Department which I represent.

Your kind care for my yearly supply of Turnip seed will be gratefully remembered and if left with the Express Agency at Graham Station will reach me safely.

From William Preston Johnston.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
RICHMOND, VA., July 23, 1863.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin
Graham, N. C.,
Dear Sir.

Your letter of July 16 recommending Mr. Robt Strange for Military Judgeship, has been received by President, and directed by him to be referred to the Secretary of War, for consideration when a vacancy arises. Col. Bradley T. Johnson is absent on leave and has not resigned his position.

Very Respty.

Yr. obt. Svt.

WM. PRESTON JOHNSTON
Col. and A. D. C.

From R. M. Abbott.

DAN RIVER, July 24th 1863.

Mr. Ruffin. I expect you would like to hear how the crop looks since it has had time to improve or show what it is going to do. I was in hopes when I wrote to you last that I could do some thing with the corn sods to make some on the bottoms but I am satisfied now that it

will not make seed, so if the little hill-side corn should be as good as such land ever brought I would not make more than 100 barrels. I did not save but verry few of the oats and what I did save is so muddy thay are not fit to feed a horse on. All of the low ground tobacco is ruined whare it was not washed up it is drouned to deth it washed off nearly all of the lot at the back of the grainry down to the clay and it washed the most of the corn land despterly all of the stubble land is verry much improved I am going to begin next week and flush up all of the land I had in oats this year and try and get a crop of oats for next year without bying seed. dont you think it will be a good plan I am trying to rais a larg crop of turnips.

Well Mr. Ruffin I am exempt from survis in this last call by being a malitia officer but I dont no how long that will bee of any account but I will suggest a plan to you that will keep me out. I think for the war if you will be so good as to do me the favor and that is for you to put it in my power to represent myself as overseer for your sun Thomas in sted of you as He is in the survis. I can get a discharge in that way by paying the 500 dollar tax and if you will make that arrangement for me I will pay the tax rather than leave my helpless family I dont think there would be the least impropriety in your makeing sum sort of temporary transfer or convayance that would answer for me to get a discharge as evrry boddy about hear calls this Thomases place any way it would be all rite I hope you will give this subject some attention and fix it for me that is if you wish me to live with you. Write to me soon and let me no what to do about carding the wool you spoke of exchanging it for cloth. I have been looking for you up ever since the freshet. I would be verry glad to see you.

Mrs. Abbott wants to no if you have got her bunch cotton 3 no. 10 and 3 no 11.

Your friend

R. M. ABBOTT.

P. S. in relation to that exemption Bill if you will fix it for me to say that Thomas Ruffin Jr. owes 20 negroes on the plantation that will answer every purpose yours truly

R. M. A.

From Henry A. Gilliam.

SHOCCO SPRING

July 28th, 1863.

I have asked Mr. Seddon to give me the place vacated on the Military Court, by the promotion of Col Bradley Johnson of Maryland. The place will be given me Col W. B. Rodman of that court writes me, if

my fitness is endorsed by yourself and Judge Manley. I have practised before Judge Manley—and have written to him to give you his estimate of my fitness. I have written him very fully—he will probably enclose to you my letter to him. I cannot repeat to you what I wrote him, because the mail is this moment being closed and this must go today.

I go to Richmond tomorrow. I am just from the town Roanoke. The Yankee raiders had reached Newbern with but slight loss.

Very Respectfully and truly

H. A. GILLIAM.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From John W. Brodnax.

PETERSBURG July 29th/63.

I know you are somewhat uneasy about the safety of your trunk, which you left behind at this place. It seems Mr. Johnson did not take it out with him but left it at the Hotel. Dr. Norcoom finding that it was left informed Dr. Brodnax that it was there and he went to the express office to have it sent to Graham, but they refused to take it as there might be a raid made on the road. Such being the case the Dr. and myself thought it best to have it sent around to Dr. Withers where it is now to await some opportunity for sending it out or untill the express would take it—if Patty comes this way and we can hear of her being here I will put it under her charge—if not it will be sent to you by express; it is safe now, which I know will be a relief to you. From Patty and Jane I have not had a single word since you left. Should have gone to have seen them and informed them that their situation was not quite as safe as it would be at Haw River, but dont know what moment an order may come for me to go to Weldon and would not like to be out of the way, when the order came. No one can tell where the proposed Yankee raiders will strike and whilst Mr. Julian Ruffin's may be very safe, yet I dont see the use of running any risk when there is no necessity for it, and it is now pretty well ascertained that there is a large cavalry force being organized at Portsmouth, which may strike in any direction. I would have written to Patty but heard that they were to be up here on yesterday shall write today advising her not to stay any longer than she is obliged to. There is no news of any interest here. It is thought that Gen. Lee and Meade may have a fight any day. Some of Gen Ransom's troops had a little brush with the Yankees evening before last near Weldon, the enemy retired. Yesterday we heard nothing from him and dont know what is going on.

* * * * *

From Matthias E. Manly.

[Aug. 1, 1863 *circa.*]

My dear Sir.

The enclosed letter will explain the object of my note. I have written to Mr. Gilliam that I have heretofore recommended R. Strange Esq. of Wilmington and desire to do nothing to conflict with his application. His application being withdrawn or for any other reason excluded from consideration (I have further said) I cheerfully recommend Mr. G. for the post.

I think him an amiable and competent business man.

Should you feel at liberty to say anything in his behalf in connexion with post he seeks, I will transmit it, if desired.

I am much concerned to hear of your loss of agricultural produce on the Dan. I hope it is not as bad as represented.

Friends here in their usual health—except Robt. Calder who is supposed to be desperately ill.

Very truly yours

M. E. MANLY.

To Judge Ruffin.

[ENCLOSURE.]

From Henry A. Gilliam to M. E. Manly.

SHOCCO SPRINGS—28 July, 1863.

I have applied to the Secty, of War for a place on the Military Court at Richmond made vacant by the promotion of Col. Bradley Johnson of Maryland. I have heretofore forwarded testimonials of my fitness from the Govr. Judge Heath and very many acquaintances in the army. Col. W. B. Rodman, Presdt., of the Court, urges my appointment, and writes me that a letter from yourself and Judge Ruffin will probably ensure me the position. Am I presuming too much upon my high regard for myself, to ask you to give me such a testimonial as in your judgment I deserve. The most adverse luck has kept me out of the Army, for the past 18 months. I was paroled at the Boston prison, Feb. '62—for 30 days. Mr. Benjamin would not exchange the Yankee Major, of the old U. S. Army—who was named in my parole, as my alternate, for me, because, I was a volunteer. I was left on parole till the first of this year. In May '62 my old Regiment was re-organized. I was the *only* officer not *exchanged*. The place of Lt. Col. was tendered to me. I could not accept it. Gen. Huger and Secty. Randolph

refused to let me go back to Fort Warren, according to my parole—and because of my failure to do so the Yankees arrested me and held me prisoner in Newbern nearly a month. Upon my release, by exchange, the organization of the army was complete, all vacancies filled by promotion—there was no place which I could get above that of private. Half my negroes have been stolen by the enemy—my houses and office burnt—my furniture and library stolen—my debtors within the enemy's lines—my practice broken up—a refugee with my wife, children and servants, at the charges of this day. If I go into the ranks my family cannot live but by the sale of the few negroes left me. These cogent reasons influence me to ask this kindness of you Sir. I ask more, that you will ask Judge Ruffin to unite with you in the note in my favor to Mr. Seddon. If I do not get it a gentleman from Maryland is to have it. I would write to Judge Ruffin fully, but have not time by this mail. Please enclose your letter to Col. Rodman, at Richmond. I shall go to Richmond tomorrow upon other business and shall ask that the appointment may be deferred 'till Col. R. shall hear from you. I have known Judge Ruffin a very long time, but have not practiced before him. I trust he will adopt your estimate of my ability and fitness etc.

I am just from Williamston and Tarboro. The raiding yankees had reached Newbern without considerable loss.

Hon. M. E. Manley.

From John G. Brodnax.

PETERSBURG Aug. 5th 1863.

Your letter has just been received. As soon as I was informed your trunk had been left at the hotel I went to the express office intending to send it to you without delay. The company refused to receive it on account of the Yankee raid, and thinking it more secure in my room than at the hotel I have kept it until yesterday; when the agent said he could take it. It was then sent to Graham and I suppose it will arrive before you receive this letter. I handed over the receipt for your trunk to Cousin Pattie yesterday. John Brodnax wrote to you last week in order to remove your anxiety about the trunk. I should have written myself had he not done so.

Cousin Pattie expects to go to Hillsboro tomorrow. She would have returned earlier but was obliged to wait for an escort. Lieut. Henry Gwynn Co. F., 9th Va. Infantry is in prison on David's Island, N. Y. See today's Enquirer. Give my love to every member of your household. I remain with great regard and esteem.

To E. J. Hale.¹

ALAMANCE—August 11th, 1863.

My Dear Sir.

Although "The Observer" was brought by my
 boy to my house for two of my neighbours who take it, and I had an
 opportunity of reading it, yet as its perusal
 of late has been its ability and
 adaptedness to the views of the I wish to be-
 come a Subscriber for it of my respect
 for yourself and your Sons the next, that may
 seek it, therein and keep the . Upon mentioning
 my purpose to my neighbour and friend Mr. *Alexander* —————
 of Melville, he said he intended to do the same thing
 and for the same reason; and desired that when I wrote for myself to
 offer his for the
 as directed to
 me a Ruffin, above mentioned.

The foregoing would not for the occasion. I can
 not refrain from writing that I gather from your conversation
 tion that similar to my own have been and are being made
 continuously upon the minds of many of the uneducated and
 classes of Society, who feel a deep concern in the success of our present
 cause by the establishment of our Independence and have no other
 interest in passing events than that arising out of the welfare of our
 country: dependent it seems to us, so materially, so entirely—upon the
 existence of *Harmony of feeling, Co-operation in action* among our
 People of all classes and callings tending to the great end of relieving
 us from Yankee legislation and domination. God knows, we deplored
 the War from the beginning, and still more, the dire necessity for it on
 our part; and no event is so earnestly wished for, and so devoutly and
 universally prayed for by all good men as "a speedy, honourable, and
 lasting Peace." But is peace to be gained by divisions among ourselves?
 Far from it. That is the very method and means to defer pacification:
 to destroy all hope of it: especially when influential Newspapers are
 constantly presenting to the uninformed and unreflecting the dangerous
 and unconstitutional measure of "State" and "popular" interposition

¹ From the E. J. Hale Papers, Collections of the North Carolina Historical Commission. The original is in poor condition and much of it is undecipherable. Part of the letter was published in the *Fayetteville Observer* of August 17, 1863, with the following introduction: "After the above was written, we received a letter from an aged and eminent citizen, who has filled with great honor and usefulness some of the most important offices in the State, from which we are tempted to make some extracts, omitting the complimentary passages, which, however grateful from such a source, are of no public importance. In old party times the writer was a Democrat, though not a secessionist."

with the foe with the view to local pacifications, without the agency of the regular organs of Government, namely the general Congress and Executive, and to that end, to inflame the minds of the People by a succession of publick meetings to register Resolutions against the Government and administration, prepared for them by some central secretary. That course of a portion of the Press and in some of the counties is obviously working a general mischief and, in the condition of the Country, indicates results yet more mischievous than are as yet apparent. We deem the efforts alluded to highly unpatriotic, and your efforts to counteract them as highly patriotic, on the other hand. For myself, I heartily thank God, that *we have a man* in possession of a Press of influence and ability, with a large circulation, ready to battle, with dignity, for our just cause and by proper means also I feel impelled, almost irresistibly, to offer to such a man—yourself—an expression of thankfulness for the invaluable service and encouraging cheers at his prospect of such. Of course one source of my gratification lies in the manner of your conducting the controversy, which has begun, and must, in the natural course of such things, be enlarged—namely, by carefully abstaining from all personal reproaches and bickerings: which, if indulged in, would only detract from the personal character and influence of the respective advocates and tend to embitter the broils among the people. No man is of importance enough to be made, in such times as these, the subject of support or opposition in place of the great questions, which involve our right of self-government and the security of our people in their persons and property. I trust and I believe, that duly impressed as you are, with the immense magnitude of the blessings and the dire sufferings of our Country, as she may prosper or fall in this great struggle for liberty and life, you will not be drawn into a *quarrel* with any man by any provocation, but will maintain the cause for its own sake and without rancor towards any but the gigantic and great foe with whom we have to contend and such domestic foes as make clear beyond all doubt, their treachery to their country and their trusts. I deprecate, if possible to avoid them, all names importing offensively party designations: “Original Secessionists,” “Destructives,” “Unionists,” or the like. They only serve to heat and to divide—to make heat *without* light. We are all Secessionists *now*: at least, he, who is not, is not with us; and why reproach one or another for having become so at one period or another. For my part, I own, I was not a *Secessionist* originally, nor at any time; because we adopted a *Government* in the Constitution of the United States, which bound us to its preservation. Under the terms of that instrument, we could not move at will from its obligations. But by the law of Nature and the rights of civilized man, we had right and power to overthrow that Government *as far as it was our Government*, when it became intolerably oppressive, under the rule of a Sectional Majority over the weaker Section by a system of bounties and commercial regulations, levying tribute from the weaker for the stronger: by

incipient acts and graver threats plainly impairing constitutional rights of property in a subject, constituting the greater part of the substance of the weaker people. The plundered portion of a people must feel the wrong done them; and, if they do, they must resent, or be deemed unworthy to hold property, or claim any franchise. Therefore I think we are engaged in a Great and Righteous *Revolution*; in which, from the beginning, I felt, that we put everything to stake, and for which state I feel that I and every one else, who deserves the name of Freeman ought to fight to the bitter end,—especially against an enemy, who has prosecuted the war upon principles, carried out into acts, which plainly prove that if they should regain their control over us, we shall belong to a Country in which not only the law will not be supreme, but there will be no law for us but the arbitrary will of the impoverished, embittered and fanatical foe, without a feeling of brotherhood for us but cherishing towards us the bitterest hatred. How can *we* offer to or ask from such a people peace? They refuse even to confer on the application of civilized usages to the exchange of prisoners! Then, how can one of the States propose terms of peace? Let Govr. Vance's reply to Stanly be consulted for our answer. What can we do in such straits but with one accord and with resolved minds fight and fight on until the Enemy feels our subjugation impossible. Let us not pick ourselves to pieces! I could write more, but I fear, I have already fatigued you. I will, therefore, only add, that my great hope for the peace and well being of *North Carolina* rests in my confidence in the patriotic principles and feelings of our Worthy Governor Vance and yourself. Your faces are set right and I trust in you.

Your friend,
THOMAS RUFFIN.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Aug. 13th, 1863.

You will have perceived that there has been a jump up in our Stocks in Richmond, followed by a corresponding rise here. Mr. Williams told me yesterday, he was selling our currency fundable in 1866 at 50 per cent, and demand exceeding supply. I purchased yesterday for the Sinking fund \$4000 6 per cent N. C. fundable notes at 60 per cent premium and have issued the bonds—and \$1,500—8 per cent N. C. at 60 per cent premium and int. I think this the best that can be done—and that the premium will go up—and fear I shall not be able to get the money invested soon.

I think it best to invest yr. money in N. C. stocks at the current rate of premium and will continue to buy, until your order me to stop.

From R. M. Abbott.

August 15th 1863.

Mr. Ruffin I send dalon on a sort of dubble erand and one of much importance to me and perhaps you allso. one thing is I want you to send me some turnip seed I have manured and prepared for a large crop of turnips or that is for as menny as I thought I had seed to sow and I lack about a half gallon or 3 quarts having enough to sow the land I have preparad I had enough but before I new I should sow so menny, I gave Dr. Brodnax about what I lack.

The oather thing is my friends the two Mr. Watkinses and Major Bethel persuated me to send down to you and get you to draw up a petition for them to assign to send to our Hon president to have me discharged from survis. as Congress clothed him with power to exempt any man whare it was necessary for the protection of the neighborhood and wee think that this case is as needful for the protection of the neighborhood as any could poserbly be as there will be but about 4 men left in our district under the last call a distance of sum 12 miles up and down the River. While according to our calculations there is not less than 400 negroes who has all reddy ben committing some of the vilest depredations on soldiers wives. Wee think that your influence in a petition of that sort will have a great weight that is the reason wee want you to fix it you will please to fix it up and send it by the Boy and use your best influence and Capt Watkins or Major Bethel will take it strate to Richmond, this need not throw any diferculty in the way of your making the arrangement I wrote to you abot last week so if wee fail in our plan wee can hit in the oather.

I hope you will not think me anoying or presumptious under this new organization of the home guard I lost my commishtions as Militia officer I am in a bad place now and for my sake help me out of it.

This leaves us all well excep Iby she has been bad off for sumtime I dont think she will recover.

if you think it would do any good you may mention in you petition as my neighbors all no that it is a fact that I have been sufering from a rumatic affection of my spine and brest for the last five years that renders me incaperble of the exposure incident to a solders life.

if you have got me that bunch cotton send it up and let me no whether I must have the wool carded for the winter cloth.

Your friend

R. M. ABBOTT.

try and cum up soon I think you had better I would be glad to see you.

From John W. Brodnax.

WELDON August 16th /63.

Enclosed you will find a letter from maj. Gen. Ransom in which he says he intends writing to the Commissary Gen. to see if he cannot get me transferred to North Carolina to assist in collecting the Commissary tax of the State, and with some assistance from you I think I can get the position. My wish for being transferred is from two causes, in the first place my health is not good and I think that by the removal I would soon recuperate and grow strong again. In the second place when Gen. Robert Ransom was promoted he was anxious as you will see from his letter to take me with him and which he had no doubt of being able to do as it had never been refused to any other Maj. Gen. but it seems the President had determined that he would not allow any other Maj. Gen. to have a Commissary or Quarter Master and the Commissary Gen. would not allow me to go with him under the impression that there would be no difficulty about my remaining on Gen. R. Ransoms staff, his Brother when he was promoted wrote to a gentleman to know if he would accept the position of Brigade Commissary which he accepted, and although Gen. Mat. Ransom after he learned that I could not go with his Brother desired me to remain with him, Yet it still makes it rather unpleasant to me. In truth it places us all three in rather an unpleasant position and I therefore wish to be relieved here and to get ordered to some duty in the State until such time as Gen. Robert Ransom may be allowed a Commissary, when as you will see he says I shall have the appointment of going back to him. I would prefer field duty to Post or any other, unless I could be stationed near home. Such are the reasons for my desiring the change at Present. Maj. Sloane of Greensboro is the Chief Commissary of the State, I would be glad if you would write to him on the subject and I learn through a letter from Patty that Maj. Frank Ruffin is with you, being in the commissarry at Richmond, he might be of considerable assistance in the matter and if not with you now a letter to him on the subject might get me transferred. I feel satisfied that all that Gen. Robert Ransom can do to accomplish it will be done. But he is now at the Springs for his health and he is under orders now to repair Montgomery as President of a court of enquiry on the Miss Campaign which will detain him there for some time, so that he will have little or no time to do much. But with what assistance you might render me, I have felt I might be relieved from my present position and placed in one where I would be rendering equal good if not better service to the cause.

Ed Brodnax came down on yesterday to see me, he has been suffering a good deal from Rheumatism ever since he quit the service, but is pretty well now—and talks of going to join his old regiment again.

* * * * *

Direct to Weldon

Care of Gen. Ransom.

I would like to be transferred to our district. I think I could do better there than elsewhere.

From Edward J. Hale.

FAYETTEVILLE, August 17, 1863.

Among very many and most valued compliments of the course of the Observer which existing circumstances have brought to us, none has been received with more emotion or is more highly valued than that from yourself. I think I may well feel that I have not lived in vain, since God has given me the ability to be of service to my country in a time of great difficulty and danger, and to cheer and encourage its wisest and best men.

I trust you will not object to my publication of the principal part of your letter. I thought it would do good, and therefore took the liberty.

You will see that, in the temper which you recommend, I had written an appeal to the Editor of the Standard. I am not very sanguine as to the result. But all else had failed of any effect except to widen the breach and increase the bitterness; and so I thought experiment worth the trial. If there were the slightest particle of common sense or gentlemanly and patriotic feeling in the two papers to which mainly I attribute the origin of all this trouble I should be very hopeful and even confident; for I cannot help thinking that Mr. Holden would be glad of a decent excuse for allaying the storm. But there is no reason to look to them for anything but malignity and folly.

If at any time you can aid me in the purpose we have both so much at heart, by suggestions which not have presented themselves to our minds, we will be greatly obliged to you.

P. S. I think Gov. Graham might do the cause great good by coming before the State in any way that he may please. His influence is deservedly very great. Cannot you suggest to him to use it. Instead of appealing to him myself, it has occurred to me that a suggestion from you would be more forcible. Whether you approve of it or not, pray do not say to any one that I have proposed it, for the Governor would have reason to complain that I did not apply directly to himself.

From D. T. Williams.

RICHMOND August 27 '63.

I trust I shall be pardoned for writing you this Letter but I am assured that I have no Friend who will be more Gratified to receive such a Communication than Yourself. after giving you the General Good health of my Family which is now as also my own Most excellent, I will proceed at once to say to you that having borne for *two years* the immense burthen of thought and depression Consequent from the action of my Partner, and knowing well that on myself alone would rest in a great degree the Settling of all the Claims due the Concern, and feeling that my worn out mind must have relief I determined to relieve myself, and have accordingly done so. I have therefore in the past few days arranged and paid every dollar, dollar for dollar, that I think can possibly Come against me. I cannot think my losses can be over \$75,000 all of which Thank Heaven is paid and while all the debts of the Concern are not yet settled there are enough of assets to pay all that is outstanding and something left. this action leaves me now a Free Man again with all my energies and Faculties untrammelled and with a Splendid business established and were I to sell out my Stock in Trade It would Yield me over three Hundred and Fifty thousand Dollars Confederate money left. will you excuse me My Dear Sir for thus writing my private affairs to you. I am assured you will and I only speak of them to show the Goodness and express my Grateful acknowledgements of a Good and Kind Providence who has overruled everything for my Good and Led me through this Trial and again I know that such a revelation of facts will be gratifying to no one more than Thomas and Yourself. Again I am the more gratified to say that I have made nothing by speculating in any thing necessary for *Man* or *Beast*, but all by my Legitimate business. True I have dealt some in Tobacco but have made nothing by It. On the first Breaking out of the war being ruined by my partner I could not think of Leaving my Family destitute and therefore put in two Good Men in my place, being now easy on that score I am and have been for some months a thoroughly *equipped* Soldier, and have been out, in active service in Camp this is an association of gentlemen in our City, who volunteered their services to the Govt. and have now been regularly mustered into the service of the State; at present we remain here, until notified; we have a splendid Regiment, the Militia cut rather a droll Figure in comparison with us. I trust this will find you in Good health, as also your Family. Mrs. Williams is at present at the Rockbridge Alum Springs, Va. She writes me that our Little Annie Ruffin can stand alone and make a few steps. You would be quite proud of her Judge if you could see her. we shall be very happy to have you visit us on Coming to our city. . . .

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO, N. C. Aug. 29th '63.

Your note by Jesse to hand this morning—With my thanks for it let me say that whilst I dislike to have any dealings with the woman named in your note will be much obliged if you will on Monday contract for the best mill that can be made—delivered at the Graham Station—marked—“P. C. Cameron—Durham—to be paid for at sight of bill—I think the bill must be sent at once. I fix no limit as to the price—get the best to be had—pay the price asked. Will you let me ask you to write our son Duncan at “Oaks Post off.” a letter of advice and instructions—one that he will keep by him so long as he lives as a chart in his voyage in life—he will be much gratified and it may make a lasting impression on him. We are all well here—no mail—today—but Col. De’L. just from Charleston says it will *never be taken* by the water approaches—that no Iron clad can live out a sail by the No. of guns and the amount of metal that will fall on her. He is a very clever intelligent officer—a West Pointer and has sent on a report to the ordinance department at Richmond of 30 sheets as to the state of things at Charleston. His family here and have been for nearly two years. George is here and reports successfully of his visit to Mr. Vestal.

I shall try and visit you after your return from Rockingham.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
RALEIGH, Sepr 12th, [1863]

Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr
Graham, N. C.

I wrote you on the 13th inst.¹ that I had bought a few N. C. bonds for comrs. of Sinking fund at 60 per cent—that the tendency was upwards and that I should continue to buy at current rates until you should order me to stop. They have continued to advance, and almost none to be procured *at any price*. I have paid as high as 120 premium and offered 125, at which I have been unable to get any. Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Davis both accepted the agency to buy, but neither of them have succeeded in making any purchases. Mr. L. writes me that he “has not been able to buy a single bond. Holders will not part with them.”

¹ August 13, 1863.

My purchases since you here are as follows

\$2,000	—	8s	at	60	premium	-	-	\$	3.200
11,500		8s	"	120	"	-	-		25.300
4,000	—	6s	"	60	"	-	-		6.400
14,000		6s	"	110	"	-	-		29.400
									64,300

Yours

JONA. WORTH, *Pub. Tr.*

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA., Octo 5th, 1863.

Yours of 30th Ultio, with the N. C. bonds on account of your Bro. has been recd and we have written to him in regard to them.

You are entitled to the int. coupons returned by us, they were not sold with the bonds.

We enclose a few circulars which please hand to some of your Capitalists. We want an Agent to sell the Cotton bonds in your neighborhood. Can you recommend one to us? The Commn. for selling will be $\frac{1}{2}$ per ct.

[ENCLOSURE.]

CIRCULAR LETTER.

RICHMOND, VA. Octo 5th, 1863.

Dear Sir:

The object of this communication is, to ask your aid in reducing the vast amount of currency now in circulation.

It must be apparent to every man in the Confederacy, that the great distress of the country in the high prices of the necessaries of life, as well as other articles, is attributable, in a great degree, to the redundancy of money, caused, of course, by the enormous expenses of the war.

It is the duty of every good citizen to do all in his power to reduce this volume of currency, and, consequently, to reduce the prices of such articles as we have to buy, and enhance the value of what we have left, when our country shall enjoy peace once more.

In soliciting your aid in this laudable undertaking, your attention is particularly invited to one of the best securities now to be had, viz: The late issue of the Confederate States 6 p. c. Cotton Interest Coupon Bonds, issued only in sums of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS each, which are payable twenty years after date in coin, with interest payable

in cotton or in coin, on the first day of June in each year. If the holder received cotton in payment of interest, the Government agrees to deliver it, at one of our Seaports, at 6d. sterling, or 12½ cents per pound, (now selling at 50 cents in Southern markets), and he will get annually, one bale of 500 pounds for interest on each \$1000 bond, or if he receives coin, the rate of premium which it is likely to bear, during the war and for some years thereafter, insures a very high rate of interest on the bonds; so, in either case, the investment cannot fail to be good, and it is obvious that no bonds which the Government has yet issued, offer so great inducements to capitalists.

Very much good can be done to our cause if \$200,000,000 more of these bonds can be disposed of at the rate at which they are offered, viz: One hundred and fifty dollars for one hundred, or, fifty per cent. premium; and the present currency would be reduced to about \$200,000,000.

You will do well to take as large an amount of them as your means will justify, not only because in so doing, you will secure a most desirable investment, but you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you aided in strengthening the hands of your Government to resist the enemy in their efforts to subjugate us. Send your funds to us, and the bonds will be issued to your order.

Very respectfully,
LANCASTER AND CO.

From John W. Brodnax.

WELDON Oct. 9th /63.

I cant thank you too sincerely for your very kind letter by Sally Bett, and have delayed answering until I had fully made up my mind as to accepting Maj. Sloan's offer, if it should be made, none has yet been made, but after getting yours and Maj. Frank Ruffin's letters I had almost made up my mind that it would be best for me to remain where I was and now I may say that your opinion has satisfied me that there would be nothing improper in my retaining the position I now hold; in addition to that the officers and men of the command are very much opposed to my leaving the Brigade. Which is another inducement for me to remain where I have given such general satisfaction, rather than removing to an untried field; for I have made many friends in the Brigade and not an enemy that I know of; I fear I am not quite as acceptable to the Gen. as I am to the Brigade although in his intercourse with me he is very polite, yet if it was left to him I expect he would prefer another man. I would not say this much if it were based only upon my opinion, but some of my friends think the same, but as

you say I belong to the Brigade and I feel pretty certain that they would prefer me to any one else, I think it my duty at present, at all events, to remain where I am and have so determined unless I can join Gen. Robert Ransom of which now I have no expectation for Gen. M. W. R. sent up for appointment the name of a Gentleman in Maj. Drewry's place who was Quarter Master of the Brigade and it was sent back disapproved the position still being Maj. Drewry's so it seems that the War Department does not intend to recede from its first position. I know personally my situation would be much pleasanter with Gen. R. R. because there I would feel that I was his first choice, then all the staff were warm personal friends of mine being all clever gentlemen here there is but little in common between myself and the staff with one exception Dr. Wm B. Mears who is aid to the Gen. I can't express to you how gratefull your kind advice was to me. I felt whilst reading it that you really considered me your son. I am just out of a spell of chills which did not make me very sick but were very inconvenient. I have not had one for two days now and I am in hopes that I am clear for the present, although I am pretty smartly reduced weighing less than I have in ten years. . . . Tom Roulhac has joined the 49th Reg. as Sergt. Major, he came on friday and went up home on saturday to get some blankets etc., he is looking very well and is a fine looking boy. John is very well and has his hands pretty full just now as his assistant is away and his regiment is having chills. . . .

From John W. Brodnax.

WELDON Oct. 17th/63.

* * * * *

As regards my going with Maj. Gen. R. Ransom, it is now I think finally settled he having received a preremptory order to send Maj. Drewry back to his Brigade he being the Quarter Master and he arrived here some few days ago. I was sorry to see him come back on his account as I knew he would prefer being with Maj. Gen. R. Ransom but was very glad on my own and I am now very well satisfied in truth I had become so after receiving your last kind letter. Say to cousin Alice that I answered her letter the day after it was received answered it and enclosed (\$150) one hundred and fifty dollars which I suppose she has received—say to Mama the box came and every thing was nice, except the grapes which from having been on the road so long a time were injured but we enjoyed them enough to make up for the loss. I eat enough to bring a chill on me and I have not gotten rid of them yet but hope to break them to day, give her many kisses and thanks for

the contents of the box. The potatoes were extra fine and I shall think [myself] something [of] a gardener when I can raise such. The cabbage pronounced very fine and pepper came in good time. The Ham we have laid away for an extra occasion knowing it to be nice. The catsup could not be surpassed and half of the cake was put away for the same purpose as the ham it looked very nice. I am very nervous worried by the chills which must be my appology for my writing being worse than usual. . . .

From Frank G. Ruffin.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT.

RICHMOND, Octr. 20, 1863

A day or two after reaching here, about three weeks ago, I received your very welcome and kind letter of october 1st, and the accompanying package of letters. I have been, as you may imagine, pretty busy ever since, and have delayed writing to you partly in consequence of that, and partly because I wanted to give you information in regard to things that would interest you, and that you could not well get in the newspapers. It so happens that I can do so to-day on a subject that interests you very nearly as a North Carolinian. I refer to the late affair at Bristow's station in which Genl. Kirkland was wounded. Seeing in the papers this morning that he was here, I set out to look for him, and was fortunate enough to find Govr. Morehead, whose son lies badly wounded at the same hospital—a ball having entered his mouth under, and to the right of, the tongue, and coming out in the back of the neck, disabling him from speech, and partially, from swallowing, and leaving him in a critical condition from risk of secondary hemorrhage. With him I called on Genl. Kirkland, finding his brother Sam with him, The Genl's. arm—the left—is broken below the elbow, but not badly as the small bone only has been hurt, and that not shattered. He was doing well, and I hope this day's repose will have left him in a comfortable condition for the night. You have doubtless seen the accounts the papers here have given of that skirmish, in which they display the usual amount of ignorance. The facts, which I will briefly state, at the risk of narrating a twice told tale, are, as well as I recollect them, as follows: A. P. Hill's advance came up to Catlett's station and found that the enemy had camped there the night before. We moved forward rapidly to catch them, and on the way a man met Genl. Hill, and told him that the enemy in small force was encamped at Bristow's station in ignorance of Hill's contiguity and movements. He at once ordered Cooke and Kirkland forward to the attack. They reached the position, drew up their brigades in line of battle, and found the enemy in

large force, two corps, as it afterward turned out, or about 14,000 men, behind a long R. Rd. embankment with cannon in an enfilading position, and their line six or eight deep so extended as to overlap our flank—Cooke's—by nearly, or quite, a mile. We halted, reported the facts to Hill, who ordered the attack to commence. It was commenced, and was checked by the fire of the enemy. Again, if my memory, serves me they were ordered forward, and were again checked; when they fell back to the edge of a wood for reinforcements. Just then the officer in charge of Mackintosh's battery of five guns sent word that the enemy were about to take them and would do so certainly, if he was not supported. Two companies, all that could be spared, were sent forward for that purpose, but finding it useless they returned. When our men were reinforced the enemy retired. Genl. Kirkland does not know, or did not know, by whose order the artillery was placed in its position; it had not fired a gun, and no one knew it was there until the message was sent for a support. There was, as there always is, a considerable space left between the brigades, and this of course widened as our thinned ranks made it necessary to close up. It was this space, which, unknown to either of our Generals, was occupied by the cannon. The men behaved admirably. Cooke, they fear, will lose his left leg, as the bone was a good deal shattered. His senior colo. in command, *not* colo. Hill, wrote a letter to Colo. Rodman which I heard read giving the above facts, as near as I can recall them.

Whether or not Hill is to blame depends, I suppose, on what amount of mistake in a general constitutes fault. I am not enough of a military man to decide that point. But I wish to see justice done to the brave men who fought the battle, and am opposed to scapegoating any body. Col^o. Larkin Smith has recommended Captⁿ. Kirkland for appointment as collector of tithe tax in North Carolina, but he has a better offer, at least a more agreeable one, in another branch of the Q. M's service with power to make his own headquarters, which he thinks he will accept.

He tells me that the effect of Lee's movement was mainly that of a reconnoissance in force on an extensive scale, resulting in the expulsion of the enemy from that part of Virginia, with the destruction of a large amount of stores, and a very considerable increase to their previous demoralization, and the obtaining of information which may enable him to send Hill's corps to Chattanooga; though this last of course is mere conjecture.

As to our general prospects, I should think them good for present and continued success, but for one thing: and that is the matter of supplies. There is enough of bread stuffs in the country; and I hope and believe of forage. of meat there is a deficiency; and I fear our blockade running (on Govt: account I mean), has not been so managed as to ensure us the supplies which under good management we might have got abroad. It is not thought that Charleston will fall, though it may be burnt and

battered. But it may be so completely blockaded as to allow the enemy to give more exclusive attention to Wilmington, and then will come the real pinch for meat. Still I hope we may have, not enough for comfort, but for subsistence for our armies here. The supply of enough to Bragg's army depends on the retaking of Tennessee, though even then I fear we will fall heir to broken victuals.

But a question quite as serious is the supply of breadstuffs to our cities, and the dangerous discontent which a dearth may produce, and which may culminate in riots. There is enough undoubtedly in the country—a relative scarcity it is true, but still enough. But the farmers have unhappily justified the declarations I have always made as to their greed, and keep back their hordes with a miser's gripe. The grand meetings they have held in different counties here amount to nothing: not a bushel of wheat or barrel of flour has resulted from them yet that I am aware of; and I fear will not. Our Legislature is not equal to the tasks it has, having neither grasp nor courage for them; and but little confidence is felt in Memminger. Meanwhile *labour* shews signs of taking the bit in its teeth; and *capital* is a timid rider. These things do not make me quail; but they make me feel serious. I think we shall weather them. But I rely more on the justice of our cause and the kindness of our Heavenly Father than on the ability of the officers or men who command or work the ship of state. Clearly it all comes from the state of our finances; and for that Mr. Davis is responsible. If he had possessed sagacity enough to select his men, and greatness enough to know his own weakness, and supply it with the sense of other men, we would not now be in such straits. But the disasters that may come, and have come will not be lost upon us, if we shall learn that the love of money, and the evils of universal suffrage will lower the capacity of men below the standard of great achievements. It may that the presumption which proclaims man's capacity for self government and perfectibility in those who would appeal to reason rather than to God is to mature its bitter fruit for us amid trials greater than we have yet undergone; and who can say we have not deserved them. But of one thing I feel well assured, that this country will be spared the humiliation of subjection. That catastrophe is now impossible. The condition of Mississippi and of all our captured territory proves that; and thereby gives us great comfort.

How far this gloomy picture may be borne out by what you know of North Carolina I leave you to determine. My accounts from Sloan are not cheering. But it is too late at night and I have written you too long a letter to take up that subject now. I call this a gloomy picture. But remember it is the worst view; and I will conclude it in the grand words of Lamar as I heard him speak them here at the beginning of the war, and ever since they have remained graven on my heart in sorrow and in faith. "The Southern Confederacy" may," said he, "fellow citizens,—for it is well to look at the dark side—she may come

out of this contest, weak, pallid, exhausted, her garments dripping with gore. But she will live, she will earn a page in history, and shine among the brightest."

And now *paullo Minora canamus*. You may judge from this letter that my wind at least is good since our return from North Carolina. My health, I think, is better than it has been since the war; and if I do not get worked down again, I feel that I can hold on for a good spell, My dear wife is quite as much improved, and we both got back home in high good humour with ourselves. How could we help it after having received so much kindness from every body? More especially too, as I thought that for the most part we might congratulate ourselves that Cicero's *laudari or laudato viro* would fairly apply to the kindness of our friends.

Indeed we are quite ready to accept your proposition and admit ourselves in duty bound to pay you a visit every year as soon as the war shall allow me to throw off the trammels of office. Meanwhile I shall make my devoirs from time by time by letter, though not always at such length, and I hope not so dolorously as now.

*From Council Wooten.*¹

WAVERLY HALL 24th Oct 1863.

As I am one of the Tax Assessors for the County of Lenoir I will be much obliged to you if you will be so kind as to give me your opinion whether it is the duty of the Assessors to ask Guardians the question whether they are willing to take confederate money in payment of their ward's dues. Also whether the syrup made from Chinese cane is to be paid the 10th gallon to the Government, your opinion to the questions will greatly oblige me.

[P. S.] My address is

Mosely Hall

Lenoir County N. C.

From Mrs. K. Cook.

RALEIGH October 28th, 1863

I have just received the note that you rote to Mr Cook as he not at home I take great pleasure in answering it for him. Mr. Cook went to Norfolk to bring out My Mother but the Yankees will not let him

¹ Council Wooten, of Lenoir County, a prominent citizen who had been a member of the Commons from 1829 to 1833 and in 1848, a delegate to the convention of 1835, and a member of the Council of State.

return So I am sepperated from My husband unless I can go to him which My mother wants me to do and I shall do so if I can the Governer wont give me a pass and I am in great deal of trouble for here I am with 5 little children and without my husband I cant make out. So I dont know what to do I am trying to sell My house and furniture if I can I offer my house for 1200 in gold but it seems I cant get that Dear Friend I would sent for the Cabbage if I thought I would have to stay here the hole winter and be very gratefull to you for them—we always have found a friend in you and allways shall think of you as such if I find that I cant go I shall send a box for them and thank the giver when you visit our city I would like for you to call and see me and we will have a talk about Mr. Cook and if you should see a chance of selling my house in your town you will oblige me mutch by so doing.

To

Mr. Thomas Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

P S I dont think Mr Cook
has any shaving soap as
I had to by some from Mrs Massons
for the shop.

From George Little.

RALEIGH 28 Oct., 1863.

Your letter to Gov. Vance has been received in his absence to Asheville to look after the troubles in that vicinity, I make a reply.

There are a few cotton cards here, which the Governor deemed advisable to keep on hand, until another arrival, which it is hoped will be in a few days. And then he will commence to distribute them to the various Counties, through such agencies as you suggest responsible and reliable private persons, when properly recommended, or the officers (*civil*) of the Several Counties. I shall take occasion to keep the Governor reminded of the name of Col. Gant as a suitable person, for your County.

As Alamance is the first county in alphabetical order, she will stand a chance to be first supplied.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA., Octo. 30th, 1863.

Holders of N. C. 8 per ct. bonds are anxious to know if it is probable that the State will pay off the bonds during the coming winter. We

learn that the Legislature has already directed the Treasurer to pay the bonds, but gave him no authority to stop the interest, in order to force them in. Please give us your opinion as to the probable action of the next Legislature in regard to this matter.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 12 NOV., 1863.

When we were last together, you stated that our Board would make an early report to the next Legislature—and that you would then give me leave (I always ask leave of you) to retire. I write now to ask, that you will appoint some day—say early in Decr. for our meeting—any Wednesday, for the accomplishment of that end. I really feel that I am worn out. Old Time has plundered me of so many of my faculties, that I am unfit to hold responsibilities to others, much less to the Public.

Now one word in the way of solicitation. I hold funds of money, of no very small amount, which I know not what to do with. I would invest if I knew in what. Our currency is in a deplorable condition, getting worse every day, and should be subjected to copious depletion. I do hope Congress will adopt bold and vigorous measures to that end. Of all the remedies suggested by writers for the Papers, I am inclined to prefer the one which appeared in a Charlotte Paper—"Taxation to the full capacity of the Country—one Half to be paid in specie or Confd. Coupons. Memminger to issue Bonds to meet the occasion." This is the slightest form of compulsion, while it will be speedy and at the same time offer the best guarantee against repudiation by a more general diffusion of the debt of the Govt. Voluntary loans cannot be relied upon. Speculation and the *greed of gain* are too rife in the land. What shall I do with my funds? invest in what? subscribe to the Coal-field Road? or what else? or is it best to wait to see what *financial scheme Congress may* fall upon?—for everything is accident nowadays.

Write me soon—I give you a half sheet if paper be scarce. . . .
To Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.

Graham N. C.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND VA. Nov. 14th, 1863.

We have to thank you for yours of the 2 and 3rd inst. We are not inclined to think that the N. Carolina Legislature will insist on paying off the 8 per ct. bonds in confederate money, as we think it would be acting in bad faith and we are glad that you agree with us.

From Frank G. Ruffin.

RICHMOND, NOV. 17, 1863.

I got your very kind and welcome letter day before yesterday, but not the scuppernong roots, which I doubt not, however, will reach me in good season.

I am now doubly glad I wrote you about Mr. Anderson, on my poor cousin Rebecca's account. I only regret that I could do so little for her in the way of attention and respect to the remains of her gallant husband. I presume you all know that Mr. George Palmer of this city is the gentleman who procured the body, buried it, and subsequently exhumed and transported it hither. He is an excellent man, and you may not have known the pains he took, and the trouble and labour he underwent about this matter. I saw Miss Petigru at our church yesterday, who said she had received a letter from Rebecca.

Just as I got your letter, or rather for several days before I had been thinking of writing to you to ask your permission to send my son Nicholas on a visit to you and Aunt Annie and all the rest of you. It so happens that he has an opportunity now, which he may never have again: for one of his eyes is seriously threatened with amaranis. Fighting a walnut battle with his little brother Frank and some other boys about two months ago an unlucky walnut hit him right in the eye. After recovering from the pain of the blow, he and his friends at Colo. Randolph's thought it a slight thing, tho the pupil remained dilated. He came home about a fortnight ago, and I thought lightly of what gave him no pain, and put him to work; but my wife insisted on his seeing our best oculist, who looked very grave and pronounced it a very serious matter. He put him at once on alterative treatment, had him relieved of work, and tells me the cure, if he is cured, will be long and tedious, occupying some twelve or eighteen months. As he is forbidden to use books, and not allowed to work you may imagine—alas! you *know* how heavily time will hang on his hands, especially in these stirring times, and when he was counting the days that had to run between him and his period of entering service.

So soon as he goes to Nelson where my negroes are, and pays one or two other visits, I propose to send him to see you, whom I wish him to visit for three reasons—to learn to know and love you all as his kin on my side of the house, to make his time lighter, and that he may learn to curb his impatience, and learn to be prudent by looking at Sterling.

But I do not propose to send him until I learn that you have room for him.

Ellen got a letter from Patty the day I got yours to me. From that we were glad to learn that you were so much better, though I was not satisfied to hear that you had gone to work again and had even become your own miller. Pray remember that you are no longer a boy.

I have again got to work and am feeling remarkably well. How long I may remain so I cannot tell. Mr. Foote is on me again—upon the question of the tobacco ration. But I anticipate no difficulty in disposing of him and the question. I knew its difficulties, and therefore requested to be assigned to the duty of issuing the tobacco ration. I only wish he would let me alone; that I might devote myself to other duties.

There is nothing here of special interest that I can communicate by letter, though much that I could talk to you about. Amid all that appears my faith in the cause remains unshaken, though I fear we may yet have much to suffer. But I look or try to look serene and faithful over the whole field and say what God hath put asunder, let no man join together.

* * * * *

I had like to have forgotten to tell you what has given me great pleasure. When I got home Judge Campbell met me with *both* hands and gave me a hearty shake; and a few days thereafter gave me, what he had picked out for me in my absence, the only ornament he had ever worn—a minature likeness of Judge Marshall. When I can claim the regard of men like him and you I can say a fig for Foote.

Judge Thomas Ruffin

Graham

Alamance Co.,

North Carolina.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Nov. 26th, 1863.

Owing to my wheat being seriously injured by *weevil*, I find that I shall have to buy some 3 or 4 Barrels of flour. Have you any good wheat on hand out of which you can put me up say 4 Barrels of your *best flour*? If you have I wish you would put up for me that quantity to be sent down at your early convenience. I must trouble Mrs. Ruffin by requesting her to reserve for me some of your very fine cabbage-seed. I intend if I live, to plant an acre or two in cabbage next year, *for market*, and I know no one who has finer cabbages than you have. If you are not likely to have them to spare, can you get them for me, of some of the cabbage growers (among the *semi-dutch* of Alamance.

When you come down again, you must come to my house, I want to see you and talk with you.

Since commencing this letter disastrous news has just come to hand. Bragg telegraphs to Gen. Cooper that his army has been defeated on

Lookout Mountain; and has withdrawn to Chicamauga. Is it not awful? Why on earth does Prest. Davis persist on keeping this man Bragg at the head of the army? The secret of it is that the men having no confidence in their commander, have failed to fight with determination. Gen. Polk, in a long letter to me (which I would be glad to show you) predicted this. He writes me that Rosecrans army could easily have been destroyed *twice*, but for the obstinacy and stupidity of Bragg. He positively refused, to Prest. Davis, to hold a command under Bragg another day.

Unless congress acts, and that promptly I regard our financial affairs as irrevocably ruined. I prefer Stuart's plan to any I have seen.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

From Lewis C. Harvie.

RICHMOND AND DANVILLE RAILROAD,

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,

RICHMOND, Nov. 28th, 1863.

Judge Thos. Ruffin

Graham No. Ca.

My dear Sir

I take the liberty of writing to ask your aid in renewing an application to the Legislature of your State for a change of Gauge on the Piedmont R. Road. My apology and excuse is—that I am utterly unacquainted with the members and am ignorant to whom to apply. The Secretary of War will write to his Excellency Govr. Vance urging upon his consideration not only the importance of this change but the necessity for it, as it would be impossible, if the road were completed for the transportation necessary for the Government to be done over it upon the narrow Gauge, as it is impossible to procure even with the aid of the Government something of that width with which to stock the Road.

If the same gauge be adopted as that on the Danville Road, the stock on that road, with the additional stock that can be procured with the aid of the Government will enable those roads to do a large amount of transportation without delay. We have laid half of the track over the Piedmont road, upon the gauge prescribed by your State and shall continue to conform to the requirements of the charter no matter at what loss, and at what inconvenience. But while we shall do so it will be with the knowledge that during the war, the road will fail to accomplish the purpose for which its construction was pressed by the Government.

The scarcity of supplies in this State and the necessity for an increase of transportation for Government purposes on that account is greater

than any one not personally familiar with the existing condition of things here is aware, and I write you to beg your aid and coöperation in renewing the application for a change of guage after a full conference with Mr. Seddon and the officers in the Commissary Department of the Government. The advantages that will accrue to the Road itself will be great, but sink in my estimation into insignificance when viewed in connection with those that will result to the Governmt. It does not become me to present those that will attach to the trade and travel from and through your State which I hope to be permitted to say are in my judgment very great and of such importance. May I beg that you will lend such aid as you can with convenience to accomplish this important object and at all events pardon me for soliciting it at your hands.

With great Esteem

I am very truly

Yours

LEWIS C. HARVIE.

From Frank G. Ruffin.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT.

RICHMOND, Decr. 2. 1863.

I presume you have read a letter I wrote you just before our friend Mr. Cameron paid us a pleasant visit. I do not mention it now to hint an answer; for in the first place I am not ceremonious with my friends; and in the 2nd if I were I should hold that your age, and, *quoad* myself, your patriarchal character should exempt you from that sort of etiquette.

I write now mainly to ask your aid in reference to a matter of great public concern, in which I hope your influence can be favorably exerted. That matter is in regard to the completion of the Rail Road connection between Greensborough and Danville. To give you a clear view of the importance of it, I enclose for your confidential perusal, and *then* for such use as your own judgment shall suggest, a copy of the report which, under orders from Colo. Northrop, I lately prepared for him to send to the Secy: of War. The Colo: disjointed it in one or two places by interpolations of his own, and the introduction of some irrelevant matter, but still you can get its drift and conclusion. Independent of its facts, which are as fully given as the records of an unsystematic office will allow, I had two main purposes in view. The first was to give Mr. Seddon ground for suggesting to Congress the propriety of invading the enemy's country, which he wants to do; the second to show the importance of completing the Rail Road connection above spoken of.

It presents a gloomy view of our affairs in a vital matter. But what I regard as worse is the fact that but for mismanagement it need not have been so bad. But for Mr. Davis, as you are aware, we could have made contracts which, *I* make no question, would have relieved much of the stress for meat; but for him the Rail Road connection would have been working long ago; and but for Whiting at Wilmington we would have continued to run the blockade with as much success to that port as ever was done to Charleston.

But for him—alas! how many things might have been done that are not; how many not have been done that are.

“*Delivant reges; achivi plutuntur.*”

Bragg as you learn has been relieved, and Harden has had the good sense to decline the succession. The Cabinet has been in session today, I presume mainly on that point. The people here are very hard on Mr. Davis; who, against the judgment of all, and the representations of those who had a right to speak, chose to continue Bragg in command; and undertook to direct the campaign. He, it was, I learn and believe, who detached Longstreet. I hear he feels the disaster deeply, but I fear he will not profit by the lesson. Bray a fool in a mortar, says Solomon, and he will be a fool still; and in my observation the worst class of fools have not been idiots, dolts, or dunces; but they have been men of more or less intellect, but without judgment; men of a good deal of acuteness of mind, but without breadth of discrimination of view; men who use this acumen to justify their perverseness and obstinacy, ingenious clever men of inveterate egotism, who never can divest a subject of its personal bearings, nor view it in a light that does not shed its beams upon themselves. Give such a man a jealous, suspicious despotic temper, and though he may be as disinterested as Protesilaus and brave as Achilles, he can never be an Agamemnon. Rather, to drop the classics and descend to very plain English, is he not in his place a fool? And do not his gifts contribute to his folly?

These look like hard words. They are such as a year ago I would have rebuked as improper in others; for I would have our rulers trusted to the full, and give them powers commensurate with their responsibility. But when they have been trusted, and been found incompetent, then other men who feel that they have some sense, some clear perceptions and a deep stake in a common cause should call upon Congress to correct mistakes, rebuke faults, and supply deficiencies. What wonder if the call be made impatiently, when disasters occur in place of successes that might reasonably have been expected; and the waywardness of our egotist threatens to make one vast Missouri of our country, and to remit us to a protracted guerilla war as the condition of final successes.

But enough of this. Bragg is an honest man, a good man, and an able man. His last dispatch, which I read, did not attempt to cover up the magnitude of the disaster, and concluded with the remark that jus-

tice to the country and himself required that he should ask an immediate relief and an inquiry into the causes of the disaster. He had requested to be relieved when Davis was there.

As you will have learned by T/g in the papers, there has no battle yet between Mead and Lee. What the movements there portend I do not know; nor have I enquired of Seddon. Such knowledge is always burdensome to me, and I never seek it; though I like to be an accessory after the fact.

* * * * *

Hon. Judge Thomas Ruffin, sr.

Near Graham

Alamance Co. N. C.

[ENCLOSURE]

REPORT ON SUBSISTENCE

On the 18th Novem. 1862, a Report was submitted to the Sec. of War. This report which embodied a comparative view of Commissary Supplies and Resources, is added at foot of this report. A statement similar to that as far as it can be made so from materials in this Bureau, is now submitted, as also some remarks on the present and prospective supplies of breadstuffs.

		Bacon	
Stock on hand	Oct. 1 1862		5,154,366 lbs.
	“ 1 1863		2,059,716 “
Deficit			3,094,650 “
		Beef	
The number of Beeves available October 15th, 1863 are reported as follows:			
Virginia-Valley of Shenandoah etc. 6000)		}	10,000 Head
S. W. Va., 4000 to 5000 say 4000)			
On Hand Oct. 1862			
			8,500 “
Excess			1,500 “
In other States as follows:			
South Carolina			500 “
Georgia			820 “
Alabama			1,100 “
Florida			200 “
Mississippi			14,000 “
Total			16,621 Head

About 2500 of the 14000 from Miss. came under the head of State Cattle, but are embraced in the return to the Subsistence Bureau. The Stock brought from Florida forms the supply used at Charleston, Savannah and the coasts of So. Carolina and Georgia.

The stock reported on hand in Florida by the Chief Commissary on the 15th Oct. of 200 Head does not represent the purchases in that State, which are forwarded to Genls. Bragg and Beauregard as rapidly as they are collected.

It is impossible to estimate from any data in this office what proportion of Bacon may be expected for the coming year: No purchases of hogs have been reported: but it is certain that nothing like the figures of last year can be reached. It was then estimated that 150,000 Hogs would be obtained from Tennessee. Now the whole of that State has been overrun and though a portion of it is believed to be recovered, yet that recovery may be temporary, and it is not safe to calculate upon drawing from it a single pound of Bacon. At the same time it was estimated that 20,000 Hogs could be obtained in Va. and N. Carolina; But Several facts occur to induce the conclusion that no such number can now be expected from that source: Whilst the absence of Returns or estimates from Georgia Alabama or Mississippi (except a statement from Georgia of very serious ravages from Hog Cholera) forbid any regular estimates from them, or anything more than the conjecture that stocks there will be small and the obtaining of a large portion of them will be precarious from the condition of the country and the want of transportation.

Every where there is a comparative, and in many places an actual scarcity of Meat. And in addition to that fact, the difficulty of getting it is greatly increased by the derangement of the currency and the consequent reluctance of the holders to sell at any price. Under an apprehension of that state of things, Congress at its last session, passed what is known as the Appraisement Act, and that this Bureau has been operating under that law ever since it became evident that to pay the prices asked would not only fail to procure supplies, but would bankrupt the Government. The withholding of supplies and the industrious circulation by rumor and through the newspapers of false reports in reference to the execution of the Impressment Law by this Bureau, has produced and will continue to produce an undue impression of the scantiness of supplies. Under this belief all parties who have the means, are endeavoring either singly or by associated effort to lay up or engage twelve months supply of provisions. In addition to that class, various organizations charged with the subsistence of soldier's families, have entered, or are preparing to enter the market: as are also corporations of cities charged with feeding the poor. All these parties have a right to transcend the prices fixed by the Commissioners of Appraisement in each state: they do so in

all cases, and generally to an amount very much larger than is fixed in the schedules of Impressment. Thus corn has been ordered in some cases at \$40.00 pr. bbl, or double the price fixed by the schedule of impressment, and Pork at \$1.60 pr cent, [?] or 166 pr cent more than the impressment price. The effect of such things has been to dissatisfy sellers with the prices fixed by the Commissioners of appraisement, large as these are, and to cause a great deal of concealment, evasion and fraud in the rendering accounts of supplies. It is unnecessary to trace the consequences of the mutual interaction of these things.

What has been said of Meats, applies equally to breadstuffs. Thus in Lynchburg, where the govt has a large Contract for grinding wheat, less than 15,000 Bushels have been reed; in Petersburg only 48,322 Bushels, and in Richmond the mill has stopped grinding for more than a fortnight.

There has been less trouble in engaging supplies within the territory covered by the enemy, or in districts likely to be overrun by them; where people are afraid of losing all; but the quantity in such places is either small in amount, or there is such deficiency in transportation, that comparatively little has been thus obtained.

That supplies have held out so well under these circumstances is attributable to the fact that the field of operations has been so completely covered by the agencies of the Bureau.

Anticipating the approach of the deficit in meat over two years ago, this Bureau recommended a reduction of the regular army ration which was always more than a soldier needed, or under ordinary circumstances, could consume; but the recommendation was unheeded until within the last few months. Still later, to wit, last fall and winter an effort was made to obtain supplies, especially of meat from without the limits of the Confederacy whereby prices might fall by the partial withdrawal of this Bureau from market and at the same time subsistence might accumulate at home. To this end permission was asked to close with offers to furnish meat in the West and Southwest in exchange for cotton. It was thought best not to grant it, but to allow instead contracts of that sort for delivery at our Atlantic Ports. Several such were made and upon terms so liberal as to have insured fulfillment had it been practicable. But so far, nothing has been delivered under those contracts; nor is there a probability that anything will be. Still further to meet this expected scarcity, in February last an Agent was sent abroad by this Bureau to make arrangements for a supply of meat and contemporaneously Mr. Wm. G. Crenshaw whom the War Dept. has sent to Europe as its Agent, was also fully instructed as to the wants of this Bureau, with authority and instructions to make purchases and ship them by the line of Steamers he was engaged to start between Europe and our ports. The Agent first referred to, going to Liverpool, turned over his money to Mr. Cren-

shaw, who purchased therewith 2,989,944 lbs of Bacon. The amount was deemed as large as could be safely purchased in view of the climate in which it was to be stored, and the length of time it would have to lie awaiting the completion of the vessels to be put upon the line. It was purchased in May and all of it has not yet come in—a fact due to the delay in completing the vessels for want of funds in the hands of the Agent; So anxious was this Bureau to aid the enterprise, that it advanced \$100,000 of its own funds in gold to the construction of Steamers or purchase of provisions as might be deemed best by Mr. Crenshaw relying upon the cotton that should go forward to repay that expenditure and to make purchases of meat. There have now been sent out by that line and by other vessels 1369 bales of cotton wherewith to purchase meat and it is hoped if the port at Wilmington shall continue open, that a continuous supply of meat may be obtained in this way; not enough however to meet the wants of our armies.

There are no other sources of supply known to the Bureau. The Dept. of Trans Mississippi which last year furnished a very large supply both of beef and Hogs is now deemed inaccessible or nearly so, though some of the best officers of the Bureau on both sides of the river, have been instructed to make combined efforts to place supplies on this side.

The quantity of sugar used in substitution of meat, has also relieved the issues of that article but the supply is now so nearly exhausted that the use for that purpose has been stopped and it is now only given to the sick.

This Bureau has therefore to report as its conviction that for the coming twelve months there will not be enough meat in the country for the people and armies of the Confederate States; and as the people can, for the reasons above stated, obtain what there is more readily and insist upon having it without any regard to the wants of our soldiers, it is presumed they must bear the brunt of hunger as well as of arms.

Whether or not there is enough wheat in the Confederacy to bread our armies and our people, is not known to this Bureau, but it believes that there is more than enough of corn to make up any deficiency in this respect. That however, is not found in due proportion in Virginia, but is widely distributed over large and distant areas, and if delivered at all, must be hauled from further south on Railroads. But the present Railroad transportation is inadequate for the purpose. It is reported by Major Carrington Qr. Mr. that he will want for Genl. Lee's Army alone 1,500,000 Bushels Corn above what he ascertains to be the surplus of Virginia.

This Bureau estimates its wants for the same purpose, at 250,000 bushels. The single track from Weldon, even if undisturbed by the

enemy cannot transport it in addition to its other necessary carriage. If the Railroad were completed from Greensboro to Danville, it might be done without difficulty and the President of that road, who has been asked to give an opinion on the subject, says that the connection can be made in three months time if the Govt will put an adequate force on the road, counting the time from the commencement of work by that force.

This difficulty of transportation has been seen from the beginning of the war, and the Bureau has made constant representations of the fact.

The mismanagement in transportation whereby an amount of stealing from the cars of supplies in transitu sufficient seriously to affect the quantity delivered at all points depending on Railroads, has been constantly felt and almost as constantly represented to the War department.

Whiskey tho' not a regular ration has been desired for issue under circumstances of great exposure and protracted fatigue. Georgia and Alabama were the only states where grain existed in sufficient quantities to justify the diversion of grain from Breadstuffs to Whiskey. The arrangements that were made to that effect in Georgia have been defeated by the laws of the State and with the exception of efforts in Alabama it is deemed proper not to attempt its manufacture elsewhere than in those two States. All the grain thus used in Virginia necessitates the importation of that much more into Virginia; and it is much easier to transport spirit than grain. Indeed to save both grain and transportation, the importation of Alcohol—to be diluted with water as a substitute for whiskey—has been attempted. But the tonnage has not been sufficient for meat,—a difficulty which has also prevented the importation of coffee.

I have heretofore in an endorsement upon a letter of Maj. B. P. Noland's dated Novem. 16th recommended "that the Secy of War notify every general commanding a Dept., that his power to accumulate reserves, under that provision of the law, has passed away—that the exigency for Meat is on them, and that they proceed and impress through the agents of this Bureau, all meat and cattle in their Depts. that exceeds 3 months supply for citizens and one half of all that Companies and Corporations have gathered, so that privation will fall on those who are under shelter."

Since writing above, reports have been recd. from Major Sloan Chief Commissary in No. Carolina and from Maj. Dameron C. S. in Mississippi. They are both somewhat more encouraging than the accounts given as to N. Carolina, and the receipts of Beeves across the Missi: But they do not alter substantially the general aspect of the report.

From R. M. Abbott

DANRIVER, December 4th 1863.

Mr. Ruffin—I have sent for the cloth I suppose what from Jimmy told me it is dun by now I have sent sum bags for more cotton I dont no how much you sent before it will take 150 lbs for our use I have got to have sum bags spun and wove out of it I want you to send me 4 bunches of spun cotton 2 No 10 and 2 No 11 and a bolt of shirting if you can get it the cotton we are oblige to have at any price I would like for you to let me no whether I have got to furnish bags for that corn you bought as I may be reddy I would also be very glad if you could make arrangements to have 30 or 40 barreles of corn sent to Greensborough early in January as I can spare the teams to hall it then better than any oather time and if I can get that much I can make out perhaps until the railrode is dun for thay will not get it dun I am informed before May I only made 105 barreles of corn I cribed 70 and if I keep my hogs alive this winter it will not last me longer than April the very best I can do. I kild my hogs last thursday they were not half fat but thay had eat every thing I had to give them the 43 hogs only weighed 4450 pounds Just half of what thay would of weighd had thay ben fat wee got but very little lard and that was so dark from the effect of turnip sallet that I never sent it down I thought you would rather sell it and if not I can send it sum oather time I send all the butter wee have got it is the best we could do wee have got less milk this summer and fall than wee ever have dun I send your box of tobacco I am dun ploughing all my land except those lots at the stable which will take me about 3 days if you would feed sum of my horses for ther work I would like to let you have 3 I can make out with the oathers until February. if you need those 3 send and get them I am sorry to inform you that pore old Duglis is ded he died last Saturday week of paralisiss let me no whether you make the arrangements for me to hall that corn in January if you do and I would be glad if you could I will need all of my horses. Major Bethel sed there was not enough of your tobacco to fill a Box therefore cut it off I have written all I think your friend

R. M. ABBOTT.

From Edmund Ruffin.

CHARLESTON, Decr. 12th 1863.

I have arranged to leave this place next Monday night, by the R. R. train which leaves for Columbia and Charlotte at 7.45 P. M. I have

not been able to learn at what hour and day it will reach *The Shops*. But I suppose you will know from the time of my departure, and my going on without stopping longer than the train will do. If you shall receive this notice in time, please send for me to *The Shops*, as, according to my promise, I shall stop to spend a couple of days with your family. As I hope to be with you so soon, I will not write of matters which can be talked of so much more conveniently. Fort Sumter holds out as firmly, and is as strong as ever. The bombardment both of the fort and the city is conducted with much less activity, as if the enemy had a little hope of success. There seems here no despondence for the fate of Charleston—though there is enough cause to fear for our successful defence elsewhere. And in my opinion, we have already suffered more loss and have yet more to fear from the misconduct, and especially the obstinate prejudice of President Davis, than from any other cause of military disaster.

P. S. I enclose for Patty a poor photograph of part of the ruins of Fort Sumter.

The morning paper arrived since my writing the above, furnishes the enclosed siege news. The accidental fire and the heavy bombardment of the enemy thereby induced were the causes of more damage to the garrison than I had anticipated. The fire could not have made much progress. The enemy's cannonading and shelling, (to prevent the garrison from extinguishing the flame) was as rapid and continuous as their artillery could serve for, until the fire was obviously abated. Our neighboring batteries were all as actively firing as those of the enemy. Tremendous firing and noise for about two hours.

[ENCLOSURE]

Saturday, December 12, 1863.

The Siege—One hundred and fifty-sixth day.

The operations of the enemy of Thursday were confined so far as regards Sumter, to a single shot.

Since our last issue the enemy has several times shelled the city. At no time, however, was the fire long continued. A few shells were thrown, at the hour of ten, on Thursday morning; again in the afternoon; also between the hours of eight and nine p. m.; at one, six and ten a. m. on Friday morning, and at irregular intervals throughout the day we received additional tokens of Yankee affection. Little damage was done.

On Friday morning a fire was observed at Sumter, but except that it was accidental, we can give no details of the matter. Some loose cotton and some exterior wood work was consumed; there were also a few casualties. The enemy, concluding that something was wrong,

at once opened fire upon the fort, but his fire was somewhat kept under our batteries, which replied with great vigor.

(Later—midnight.)

We learn that the casualties at Fort Sumter, mentioned above, were 10 killed and about 80 wounded. Among the killed are Capt. Frost, A. C. S., and Serg't Swanson, Co. K., 1st Regiment S. C. Artillery. Capt. Gaillard's Company lost 3 in killed and 2 wounded.

Lieut. Col. Elliott was slightly wounded on the head by a piece of brick, but not to such an extent as to cause that gallant officer to relinquish his command. P. C. Elliott, of the Signal Corps, is among the wounded. The strength of the fort is by no means impaired by the accident. Its resistive power is still as strong as usual, and the confidence of the garrison remains unshaken.

From William A. Graham.

RALEIGH, Decr. 12th 1863.

The Bill to authorize a change of the gauge in the track of Piedmont Railroad, being called up for consideration last night; a motion was immediately submitted to lay it upon the table, which precluded all debate in explanation, and was carried by a considerable majority. The subject seemed to have been canvassed before hand, in private circles, and the result was no doubt preconcerted. The expression of the sense of the Senate, was so decisive that there has been no attempt to reconsider.

The Legislature will adjourn on Monday. Heavy appropriations have been made for the clothing of troops and maintaining a separate force, which it is unwisely determined to keep up on state account.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin.

Etc., etc.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, Dec. 14th, 1863.

For fear it may escape my memory let me remind you, of our conversation in regard to *Flour*.

As we are nearly *out*, I shall be pleased to receive the Barrel you said you thought you could furnish, yourself. Is there any certainty

of the Rail Road bringing it—if it is doubtful, had you not better send it “by express?”

If you can buy the wheat for me—good wheat, not injured by weevil, I must request of you to do so, without limit as to price—and have it manufactured for me, and send it down.

How can the country stand the scarcity of this winter, and next spring? Not being well enough to go myself, I have directed my overseer to attend a sale tomorrow, and buy me 3000 to 4000 pounds of pork and have told him to go as high as \$2 a pound. I doubt, if he can buy for that.

I do hope some of those greedy men, who are refusing to sell provisions—holding on for still higher prices may be *caught* by the sudden contraction of the currency. But will not the first temporary effect be to carry prices still higher. Speculators, with large amounts in their pockets, will be so anxious to get clear of their money rather than bond it, that they may offer still more exorbitant prices for any kind of property in which to invest. 'Tis true, this may be counteracted to some extent by the anxiety of those having provisions, to sell that they may get bonds, with the coupons of which, to pay their taxes. Of these financial operations, however, nothing is to be argued *a priori*. All knowledge on the subject is experimental.

I notice the Secy of the Treasury makes no special mention of 7.30 notes. So that if Congress concurs in opinion with him, they are in the category of ordinary currency notes; and those of us holding them, may prepare to fund them. I am sorry for this.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin,
Graham, N. C.

From Council Wooten.

KINSTON 16 Decr., 1863

Please allow me to ask you the following interrogatories. 1st is the tax payer required to pay taxes upon the Interest on his notes the 1st day of January next 1864 as income that he paid tax on the interest on said notes up to the 1st day of July last.

2nd. is the tax payer required by the act of Congress to pay tax on his milk cows and other cattle not intended for sale but for his own use in the family. Also is the tax payer required to pay tax on his colts raised to work on his farm for his own use and not for sale.

3. Was the tax payer required to pay tax on his gold and silver Bank bills State Treasury notes at any higher rate than on his confederate treasury notes your opinion on the interrogatories will greatly oblige me as I know of no man in the confederacy that I would as soon rely upon their opinion as I would of yours Direct your letter to at Mosely Hall Lenoir Cty, N C

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, Decr. 24, 1863.

I feel uneasy about the flour. I have sent to the Depot, regularly for the last 3 or 4 days, and can't hear anything of it.

Will you please be so good as to enquire at Graham Depot, whether the flour has been sent, and let me know accordingly.

Nothing new here. We are all well, except myself. I am still suffering from neuralgia.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin,

Alamance.

P. S. I have secured the cotton bagging for you. I bought of the Quarter Master here some gunny-bags. They make beautiful bagging. I paid for them 14 pounds of cotton for seven Bags. It takes about $5\frac{1}{2}$ bags to the Bale.

From Jonathan Worth.

RALEIGH, Decr. 27th, 1863.

Lancaster and Co have rendered their acct. of the sale of the \$300.-000 7 per cent. Con. bonds and the investment of the proceeds in N. C. 8s. I have written to them to forward the 8s by Express.

The expenses of our clothing and other State military operations are enormous; and in my opinion should have been turned over to the Confederacy long since. They have been an enormous charge upon the Treasury. In addition to this we have some 1800 troops, East of the Chowan, to feed, clothe and pay, besides arming them. They are wholly inefficient as I learn. State credit will suffer much if this line of policy continues. I presume I shall have to borrow your next dividends.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, Dec. 31st, 1863.

I wrote you some 4 or 5 days since stating to you that I had not heard anything of the 2 Barrels of flour you wrote me that you had delivered at the Graham Depot for me.

Not having heard from you in reply, I fear you have not received my letter. Please institute an enquiry into the matter and let me hear from you. I have regularly sent to the Depot to enquire for the flour.

I still continue to be very much indisposed. For the last week I have suffered almost constantly, with this terrible *neuralgia*. I very much fear, that all my capacity for usefulness, is about at an end. I cant stand the least exposure.

What is to be the effect of the financial scheme likely to pass Congress? Judging from the newspapers Congress seems bent on rushing to a pre-determined purpose, without looking to the consequences. As to *heavy* taxation, we all expect it, we regard it as right and proper. As to the redundant currency it ought to be done of course—but I doubt whether the *sudden* and *summary* withdrawal of 4 or 5 hundred million of Dollars from circulation, will not produce a revulsion that will be ruinous.

What about our 7.30 interest bearing notes? I suppose they go into the limbo of other Confederate paper. The Government ought, at least, give us in exchange for them, a new issue of 6 per cent interest bearing notes. These notes are now effectually a funded security. The Government has no trouble from them as currency. Then why add \$123.-000.000 more to the market-glutted amount of "bonds"?

I have thought I would write to Geo. Davis and suggest to him to offer an amendment to the finance-scheme providing for allowing the holders of 7.30 notes to receive 6 pr. cent notes in lieu of them; as it seems, to be the fixed purpose to reduce all our securities to 6 pr. cent.

What is the meaning of that provision in the bill as reported, saying the holders of 8 per cent bonds, "*may*" exchange them for 4 per cent bonds, to be non-taxable? Will non-taxation be an inducement to the holders to give over one half of the principle of their bonds? I don't like the principle of non-taxation, as applicable to any of our public securities. It will excite alarm and dissatisfaction. Neither do I like the idea of distinction in our securities; *if there is to be a radical reformation* of the whole system—let them *all* be 6 per cent, or all 5 per cents, or 4 per cents, as may be. It will be the best guaranty against repudiation, or tinkering hereafter.

Have you made out your schedules of your 7.30 notes preparatory to drawing interest, which I suppose you purpose to be, [*sic*] when you come down? You will find it a tedious and troublesome business, if you have many of them. I can send you some printed captions, if you wish me to do so. If, however, you have but few, you can arrange them, when you come down.

When will you be down here? I have written on without rhyme or reason—being confined to my room this rainy day, and being too much indisposed to attend to outdoor business.

Brig: Genl. Lucius Polk, son of Dr. Wm. Polk, paid us a short visit last week, with his lately married wife. He is a promising young General, only 30 years of age. Genl. Hill made a special mention of

him in his report of the battle of Chicamauga. Hill said, that in all his fighting he had never seen a finer Brigade, or one better and more ably handled. This same Brigade bore the main brunt of the enemy's attack at Ringgold, where the Yankees were repulsed with such heavy loss. Gen. Lucius Polk says he regards our defeat at Lookout Mountain as a blessing to us—inasmuch as it got rid of Bragg. He says that the country has no conception of how utterly worthless Bragg is—he has been in Bragg's army over 2 years and he says he never saw Bragg riding down or along his lines, in his life—that up to 6 months ago, he had never seen Bragg but once in his life.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance N. C.

From Frank G. Ruffin.

RICHMOND, Jany. 3, 1864.

I have your letter and Lady Gwynn's with its enclosure. They came today. I had received your other, in response to mine, announcing that I should send Nicholas to see you and your family, with liveliest pleasure and gratitude. I have not replied to it, 1st: for want of time; and 2nd: because I was hoping that the condition of the Rail Road would allow me to send Nicholas to you. So far, I have been unwilling to trust him on the road, to say nothing of the inconveniences and actual suffering to which so inexperienced a traveller as he is might be subjected. Now that that matter is in the way of amendment, (by impressing the Road and engaging Sumner to run it) I hope in a short time to be enabled to send him to see and know, i. e. to love you all as his kin. He is now out of town; to keep away from the gas light; but will be at home in a few days. His eye, he thinks, is mending rapidly. I think it is mending—but slowly.

You express a wish to see me "for many reasons, private and public." I wish I could go to see you; but to leave my post now would be simply desertion. The difficulties which have beset this department from the first have increased and are increasing. The amount of food in the country is little enough, but the administration in reference to that, as to everything else, without exception, is worse. Very, very few have an idea of it, or will have, until it bursts upon them.

In reference to the business in which I am concerned, my course has been taken and acted on. I began to prepare for it so soon as I reached here last fall. Every suggestion that the Government had made for obtaining supplies had been worked out to a fruitless issue. Every one that this Bureau had made had either been rejected or accepted, and so obstructed in its own execution by their own failures or omissions, or by the interference of department commanders, or even subordinate officers,

as to have failed wholly, or in great part. In this state of things, I decided that it was my duty as a citizen, not to say patriot, to break through the cobwebs of etiquette and routine, and state the case to the grand inquest of the Confederacy. If I had not been supported in this view of my duty by wise and able men, I should nevertheless have taken the responsibility alone. But I *was* supported by wise and able and good men.

I have done my duty; and am now engaged with my colleagues in office in carrying that out. The whole case, with all its collaterals, rests with those who will apply the remedy, if the remedy can be applied.

I wish I could think, in all the uncertainties of the mail, that it was safe to be more explicit; and I wish I had told you last summer more, that I knew, than I did tell you. But I did not care to shock your convictions, nor disturb your conclusions; and I was hoping, hoping, hoping.

“Hope, brother to fear, more gaily clad,
The merrier fool of the two, and— twice as mad.”

I have been working day and night, making statements before committees which amount, though conversationally delivered, to long and elaborate speeches. That work is not yet done, and I am ordered to prepare a long and laborious report. Let that explain the shortness of this letter, rather than any want of interest in you or yours. I love you all very dearly.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO, Jany 12th, '64.

Wilson will be at your house tomorrow with his Wagon to get the fruit trees for your grand son's orchards. I pray God we may all live to eat the fruit from them in peace and as freemen and with thankfulness to you for the very liberal supply of the trees.

* * * * *

. . . You will much oblige me if you will tell me what is your construction of the Income Sec. or to this item—“if I sell a 1000 bond old N. C. for 5000 do I return the 4000 as income or profit? Please let me hear from you on this point by the *return mail*.

I will not use your letter or let any one see it if you have any wish about it. Mr. Allen has certainly placed construction on the law that I should never have thought of. It is my wish to make a *return* of my taxes as perfect *in* all matters as it is possible to make. I thought from what passed between you and Mr. E. and Mr. M. that we did not pay the *tax on it* either as income or profit, but held it as *capital*. I learn

that some are claiming a tax on it as profits in making up ones income—How will it be if I exchange—1 old N. C. 1000 to 2. new N. C. \$1000? If I build a bridge for a County for which I am to be paid \$1000 must I return it without *deductions* for timber or any other item—I furnish *all* from my *own stocks*? Dont you think that negro women who spin and cook on plantations and blacksmiths (in shops that do no work for the public and in shops in which no books are kept and no charges made)—are all to be regarded as slaves engaged in the plantation?

I enclose you a letter from Mrs. Ruffin handed me on the cars at Raleigh and which I should have handed you but overlooked it. We are glad to know that Mrs. Ruffin and all are well ex. bad colds—and the *Ice House full*.

P. S. In my case I sold bonds and at *once* invested in other N. C. bonds—

Dr. Cain is very sick—an aff. of Lungs.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Jany 12th—1864.

I regret very much that I could not have seen you after your interview with a certain person—and whilst I do not expect or wish that you should violate any injunctions of confidence—yet I must request of you, to say whether you feel at all *relieved* by what was said to you,—whether certain persons are really awaked to the true state of facts—and whether being so awaked, is likely to result in any positive action. There are two reasons why I feel anxious to get this information. One is my great anxiety as to the consequences of further vacillation and inaction in *certain quarters*. Another reason is—I am doubting whether I shall not, and ought not to approach, if not a certain person himself, then the only single friend of that certain person, occupying a confidential relation towards him. I should be glad to hear from you as far as you are disposed to make revelations.

I am still very much indisposed—have been out very little since you left. You may rely on it, serious trouble is brewing in our State.

I hear that the proceedings of the Johnston meeting¹ are covert in

¹These resolutions had been prepared by William W. Holden and Dr. J. T. Leach, and were adopted at a peace meeting held in Johnston County early in January. The important portion follows:.

“Whereas, the alarming and fearful tendency of the Confederate Government towards a military despotism by the enactment of unjust and oppressive laws, to citizens is just cause of complaint.

“Resolved, That North Carolina, as a sovereign and independent State, has a right to consult the present good and future happiness of her citizens, and when she is forced to choose between a military despotism and her State sovereignty, for the good of her people, she will choose the latter by a convention of her citizens.” *Standard*, January 12, 1864.

their tone, and therefore the more dangerous—that they sound the alarm against a threatened “military despotism”—and give out in anticipation, that No. Ca. will resist this “military despotism.” He that runs may read, the meaning of that. It means that the energetic and stringent measures that may be adopted (and that must be adopted) in order to meet the gigantic preparations of the enemy, for his spring campaigns—are to be *resisted*, under the pretext that they tend to a “military despotism.”

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Gunn and Bowe.

YANCYVILLE N. C. 22nd. Jany. 1864.

Honored and Dear Sir

Your esteemed favor under date of 29th October Came to hand by due course of Mail and it was intended to answer it long before now, but being from home much of our time and other hindrances have prevented it to this late date. You say that you received the check for seven hundred and seventy dollars which within a few cents paid off the amount of our Note with you—we happened not to have your letter about us when we got the check and did not remember the odd cents we now send enough to pay it and the postage etc. You further say that you have marked the note cancelled and will forward it to us as we may wish:—and also that you accept the payment in the mode tendered as you do not wish to do anything to depreciate the currency of the country:—But that *you* have not paid any debt contracted before the war, in this currency. Now we cannot help thinking that while you do accept the mode of payment, you do think at the same time that the payment ought not to have been insisted on by us:—and it is on this single idea that we wish to make a remark, and first we probably owed enough at the beginning of this war to absolutely ruin us on a change of currency to a Specie basis and all the indebtedness then to be paid; at the same time we had a large amount of debts due us, all of which was fast coming in, leaving all the indebtedness on one side. In the second place the indebtedness of the Confederacy is so enormous and still increasing that the tax likely to fall upon the citizen will be beyond endurance and in such a contingency every man ought to represent *only such means as properly belongs to him*; otherwise taxation might be very unequal—this last idea is overwhelming with us—But it [is] useless to pursue the chain any further. Your sagacious mind will at once see the force of the argument.

Now in conclusion we beg that you will relieve us of any wish to injure you in *any way*, we waited two years to see if any change was likely to come upon the country for the better, and to this date every thing that concerns the Southern Confederacy is assuming a darker and more threatening aspect—and we greatly fear that our rights in slave property is doomed, at an early day. May God deliver us, from a general spoilation—accept our wishes for your well being etc., etc.

GUNN AND BOWE.

Send the note by mail.

From Delphina E. Mendenhall.

JAMESTOWN GUILFORD Co., N. C.

23rd 1st mo. 1864

Hon. Thomas Ruffin—

Enclosed is a Copy of a Petition to President Davis in behalf of Tilman R. Vestal, a grandson of Richard Mendenhall Deed, of this place.

Judith J. Mendenhall, the youngest daughter of Richard Mendenhall, is now on her way to Richmond for the purpose of making an effort for the release of her nephew T. R. Vestal.

He was taken as a Conscript in Tennessee, where his parents reside, and placed under Genl. Polk's command, when only 18 years of age. Genl. Polk heard with kindness and sympathy his earnest declaration that he could not perform military service without violating his conscience, and sinning against his God, and for that reason, gave him a discharge and sent him home to his parents. He was soon after taken again as a Conscript and has been in charge of the Military authorities now more than a year—bearing with patience and meekness all the punishment inflicted upon him.

Please be so kind as to write a letter to President Davis, recommending the bearer of the Petition, Judith J. Mendenhall, and respectfully asking the release of T. R. Vestal on the ground stated in the Petition, and on account of his having been from his infancy remarkable for the purity of his life, the tenderness of his conscience, and the devotedness of his piety from early boyhood. For the truth of which I hereby pledge by word and honor. Please enclose said letter to my niece. Address—Judith J. Mendenhall, Richmond, Va. She will present it to the President, with the Petition. Please send it by the first mail.

We are advised that a letter of this kind from thee, will have much weight with President Davis, and ask it as a very great favor.

This occasion opens the way for me to ask another favor which has been resting on my mind for many months.

At the time the Quaker Bill was before our Legislature, (or Convention) my Cousin T. J. Wilson of Forsyth County, told me that the Society of Friends ought to have the speech made by thee on the subject—Because it was the Speech that set forth most forcibly the reason why they ought to be exempt from military service. As there may be future Legislation on the subject, not only in this, but other lands, please be so good as to write out the substance of that speech, not for *me*, my much esteemed Friend, but for the innocent, the meek and lowly, of this and other lands—of this and other days—perhaps for generations yet unborn.

I trust that it is for Christ's sake I make the request. I trust for his sake, my request will be granted.

Very respectfully

DELPHINA E. MENDENHALL
Widow of
George C. Mendenhall.

[ENCLOSURE]

A PETITION TO PRESIDENT DAVIS IN REGARD TO TILMAN R. VESTAL

*To the Honorable Jefferson Davis
President of the Confederate States America.—*

We desire respectfully to present the case of Tilman R. Vestal whose Mother is a member of the Religious Society of Friends, a native of North Carolina, but now a resident of Tennessee. His father, not being a Friend, he does not come under the law allowing exemption to such, but his mother having carefully instructed him in the principles of said Society, it appears he has endeavored faithfully to maintain them. When conscribed and taken to the Western Army he was offered the privilege of the exemption Act, but declined to avail himself of it at that time, supposing that such would be the course of friends generally. He was afterward removed to the Army of Genl. Lee, where after having endured many trials, he was finally Court-Martialed and sentenced to imprisonment during the War, for declining to perform military duty. When Vestal had opportunity of communicating with friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting of which his Mother is a member, and learned that said meeting, had by Minute granted to its members the liberty of availing themselves of the law of exemption for non-combatants, he also wished to be allowed the same privilege. The case was brought by appeal before the Honl. James A Seddon Secretary

of War, who declined to allow him the privilege because he had once refused it. We hope it may be the pleasure of the President to allow said Vestal exemption on the payment of the tax, seeing that his refusal in the first instance to pay such tax arose from his separation from the body of the Society and ignorance of what action they had taken in the matter.

We would further mention that this young man is a Potter by trade, and if released would be a useful member of the Community and we are sure a peaceful and law-abiding Citizen. In support of the facts above mentioned we respectfully refer to papers on file in the Office of the Adjutant General at Richmond.

Earnestly craving the guidance of best wisdom for Thee as our Ruler and submitting the above petition to thy clemency, we are respectfully—
Copy of Signatures

PETER ADAMS

N. H. D. WILSON

C. A. BOON

Sheriff Guilford County N. C.

ANDR. J. McALPIN

Discharged Soldier—from 1st
Regt. La. Vols.

CYRUS P. MENDENHALL
President Farmers Bank

JOAB HIATT

A. P. ECKEL

Mayor

JAMES SLOAN

Major and Chf. Coms.

JOHN A. GILMER

Under a decision of Judge Campbell the man is entitled to exemption provided the Statements made are Correct.

(Signed) J. H. ANDERSON.

Capt. and E. O. 6th. Dist.

James T. Morehead

Jesse H. Lindsay

From M. A. Curtis.

HILLSBORO Jan. 23d. [1864]

I do not suppose that you expected to be in Graham yesterday. Had I been there, you and your family could hardly have turned out in such weather.—Now, to make up for the deficiency as far as I can, I propose

to go up next Saturday, weather and other things suiting. I shall keep this plan in view and endeavor to execute it, unless you write me to advise otherwise.

Affairs are gloomy enough; but I still believe the Lord will deliver us, though it may be in a way we do not anticipate or should ourselves prefer. "The Lord reigneth";—there is comfort in that.

* * * * *

From Kenneth Rayner

RALEIGH, Jany, 23d, 1864.

I think it best for you not to trouble yourself about delivering cotton to the State's Agent, at Graham to pay for the few bags I let you have. I will pay for them here, and we can arrange the matter, when we settle for the flour.

I am glad to hear you have found the missing "counterfeit notes." Nothing new here except that the "Convention-calling" plot continues to thicken. I understand a meeting has been held in Granville, and one is to be held here soon, demanding of the Governor, the reassembling of the Genl. Assembly for the purpose of calling a convention. You may rely on it that something must be done and that speedily, if anything is to be done. Talking about it and ridiculing the movement, are about as vain and insufficient a method of dealing with this difficulty, as is reading the riot act to an infuriated mob.

I have saved some cotton-seed for you, which can be sent before planting time. I am just through ginning and packing my cotton.

My health is still very indifferent. I still suffer from *neuralgia*.

The new paper "the Confederate" is out, with the first number, this morning. A negotiation is going on which will probably result in Col. Duncan McRae's becoming principal editor.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

Jany. 26th. I have settled for the bags with Creech and Litchford and paid the cotton. Your 30 Bags will cost you \$75, on the terms of 2 pounds of cotton for a bag; and hypothecating the cotton at \$1.25 a pound. It makes very pretty bagging and is cheaper than other kind to be had. K. R.

P. S.—I have a favor to ask of you. I notice some Horse Collars in the Q. M. Department here made of or covered with cloth. I am told they are made in Graham. I like them very much. I want you to ascertain what you can buy a dozen of them for, for me—and write and inform me.

From Lancaster and Company

RICHMOND, VA., Jany 27th 1864.

We have your favor of 18th inst. Cashr. Taylor informs us that he has arranged the interest matter for you. The amt. of \$44.79 appears to your credit on our books.

We are pleased to learn that our transactions in your Bro's. account have given him satisfaction. We cannot always advise our customers promptly of what we have done for them, by reason of the great press of business on our hands. We are sadly in want of Clerks and fear we cannot obtain experienced ones so long as the war continues, indeed there is great danger of our having to give up those we now have. Congress still refuses to give the public any light on the discussions in regard to the currency. We fear they contemplate some *dark deed*, such as taxing the currency 50 per ct. such action would be ruinous to the credit of the Govmt. Some think their action will be to force funding. Nothing but a very heavy tax to be borne equally by all will cure the evil.

From William T. Dortch¹.

RICHMOND Feby 1st, 64.

I should be pleased to receive a letter from you giving your opinion of the State of affairs in N. Ca., the object of those who are urging the call of a Convention, and the necessity for a suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus..

It is proper that I should say that I may wish to use it before the Senate in secret session if you have no objection. An early answer will oblige.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Graham, N. C.

From David A. Barnes.

RALEIGH Feb. 5th, 1864.

I applied to the Paymaster this morning to receive the money due you for the services of your slaves upon the fortifications. He requires a power of Attorney with two witnesses. If you will send it down I will take pleasure in collecting and forwarding it.

¹William T. Dortch, of Wayne, member of the Confederate Senate.

From Matthias E. Manly

HILLSBORO Feb. 7/64.

I recd your kind message thro Jesse in relation to the *peach trees*. If a freight is not starting for this place at the time they are ready send them down by *express*. If you could add a few pears and cherries not needed in your orchards they would be very acceptable.

I made an expedition in the rear of the army down to the vicinity of Newbern and have just returned. The result so far as it is of any interest to the public has been accurately detailed by the "Confederate" newspaper. All that was intended has not been accomplished perhaps but enough has been done to prevent the short-coming from weakening the war-spirit of our people, I trust. Our love and compliments to your family.

From James C. Dobbin.

CHIEF ENROLLING OFFICE, 6TH CON. DIST.,
GREENSBOROUGH, N. C., Feb. 16th, 1864.

I have the honor to reply to yr. letter addressed to Capt. I. H. Anderson. The Petitions of which you speak, should be full and explicit, setting forth all the facts in the case, and with sworn testimony attached. They must be put in the hands of the Enrolling Officer of the County from which they are sent, who will make a thorough investigation of the case, and forward with his opinion, the papers, which will be forwarded to Richmond through the proper channels. No petition will be forwarded from this office, without the written opinion of the County Enrolling Officer thereon.

From Kenneth Rayner

RALEIGH, Feby 18th, 1864.

In the "Confederate" of this morning was a communication in the first column, of the first page. It was written by me. The article was the double that length for my purpose was to argue the matter somewhat at length. But it was cut in two. The conclusion will appear in the Confederate of tomorrow morning, over the signature of *Amiens*, over which signature I shall write, when I do write, and *if I*

do write, any more. I intended it for an editorial—knowing that editorials are more apt to be read, and carry more weight with them. But it seems our friend McRae has resolved that no *editorial* shall go in the paper unless written by himself so Gorman tells me. This is very strange, and as I think very unwise. Very strange for he told me himself, a few days since, that he should invoke the aid and assistance of the prominent friends of the paper—and very unwise, because he thereby cuts himself off from all support in conducting the editorial department of the paper.

I hope you will read the two articles I have referred to as written by me, and see if I am right, in my position as to the status of those who may attempt to carry out the decrees of a *bogus* convention. I shall follow them with a third article on the suspension of the Habeas Corpus. The Habeas Corpus has been suspended. That is certain. I know it. The law does not leave it to the discretion of the President, but positively suspends it in certain specified cases such as the arresting of conscripts—and as I presume, in case of persons suspected of disloyalty, limiting the time they shall be held in durance, etc.

But what think you of the currency bill? If its terms are, as contained in the telegraphic synopsis—it is, I think, an unwise and I fear ruinous scheme. The excitement about it, here, is very considerable already. The compulsory funding in 4 per cents, under the penalty of having to pay a tax on the money, of 33-1/3 per cent in 6 weeks, will I think, thoroughly destroy treasury-notes as currency. I don't think it will buy anything, or circulate as money at all in 10 days most persons have I presume already paid their taxes. The brokers here would not sell gold this morning, on any terms. All securities—6 per cents and upwards, are going up tremendously. 7.30 interest-bearing notes are at 12 per cent premium in Richmond, as Mr. Mordecai informed me today.

We have it bitterly cold here. I am glad to say, that I am considerably improved of my neuralgia in the last few days.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH. Feb. 21st 1864.

It has become about certain that I shall not need the money belonging to the Comrs of the Sinking Fund until the Legislature shall make further appropriations. If they shall keep up the War establishment of the State, including the clothing of our troops in the Confederate service, vast appropriations must be made, and I shall be without

means to meet them, excepting by borrowing; or success in collecting old claims against the Confederacy. The last is a very unreliable resource.

The clothing establishment, and the running of the Blockade in aid of it,—and the military organisations of the State, are favorites of the Gov^r. and will probably be continued. I deem [them] suicidal to the State, without any compensating benefit to the Confederacy. The Gov^r. thinks our clothing establishment and blockade running operations highly lucrative; and I regard them as pecuniarily disastrous. He has the means of *knowing*: but as no showing of these operations has been made, I draw my conclusions from a few fugitive facts which have casually come to my knowledge. It may, perhaps, be traveling out of my sphere to present my views to the Genl. A. on this question. It has been confided exclusively to the Executive. The Genl. A. ought to understand its operations, but so far, seems content to know nothing about them; and if I submit my views, it will subject me, perhaps justly, to the charge of obtruding my opinion on matters not strictly legitimate for me to discuss as Treas^r. I think it probable, therefore, that heavy appropriations will be made at the May Session, to be raised by loans: and Con. bonds, belonging to the Comrs of the Sinking Fund may then be converted into currency, and loaned to the State.

When the Telegraphic account of the currency bill reached us, it entirely overlooked the section giving the States the privilege to fund notes, held prior to 1 Apl. next, until 1865, in 6 per cent bonds. Believing, from this Telegram, that as soon as the bill was ratified, that the Depositories would be instructed to allow no more funding at 6 per cent., and a large part of my funds consisting in hundred dollar bills fundable in 6 per cent bonds, and deeming it unsafe to wait for instructions from you, I immediately procured extraordinary force, and in one day assorted and funded all the money belonging to the Comrs. of the Sinking Fund, and a considerable amt. belonging to the Public Fund, in 6 per cent bonds; and, as I apprehended, the work was scarcely concluded, until the Telegram came forbidding the Depository to fund any more save at 4 per cent: and soon afterwards came the act itself, when the provision in favor of the State—12th Sec—showed that I had acted with unnecessary haste. I hope my action will meet your approval, and that you will credit me with active good intentions, though little benefit may have accrued to you.

I learn that 6^s are worth 11 per cent. premium at Richmond. If so, these bonds might be sold, and the money re-invested, with an increase of nearly \$50,000 to your fund. It seems clear to me that this should be done. If so, it should be done before 1 Apl. I shall act on this idea immediately, presuming on your approval,—desiring, if you should not approve, that you notify me *immediately*.

My idea is, therefore,—first to sell the 6^s now held for you and re-invest the proceeds in other 6^s *before* 1 Apl; and hold the latter, instead of buying State bonds, until the State shall need money—likely to happen by the 1st June—and then to sell them for new currency, and loan the proceeds to the State at par.

I desire to have your views—by letter—or which would be better,—by a personal interview with you, or the board, *with the least possible delay.*

From Matthias E. Manly.

OCONECHE KNOB. Feb. 26/64.

The information in your note (which accompanied the kind present of trees) that you were about to visit your plantation in Rockingham, caused me to postpone this acknowledgement for a few days.

I now take pleasure in tendering you my thanks for your most acceptable donations of both peach and cherry trees, and as the best I can do for the present of inviting you to a collation upon their first fruits, at some future time—of which you shall have due notice. I trust you will long live to enjoy the benefits of your labours in this and other important departments of human labour.

Permit me to avail myself of this occasion to enquire of you as a friend of ripe judgement and great experience what ought to be done by other judges in certain states of facts as to the result of the case of "*habeas corpus*" heard by the chief J. lately at Salisbury. I am not informed certainly what the result was.

If there was no decision, but an adjournment of the case to Raleigh ought we to follow and adjourn over to the same place all other cases?

If it was decided and adversely to the constitutionality of the law as stated does comity require of us to suspend our judgments untill a conference, in court, can be had; or to go forward and decide according to our individual judgments?

What effect, if any, has the provision of law (as to the time within which a case of *habeas corpus* shall be heard) upon the questions of adjournment? Rev. Code C. 55 53.

I am a little at a loss to know why it was the Chief J. did not follow Judge French. He claimed that respect and immunity for his own opinion in construing the governor's power under the home guard act. In the matters in hand the C. J. and Judge F. *had precisely a co-ordinate jurisdiction.*

I regretted to hear you have some sickness of the nature of varioloid in your family.

Hon. T. Ruffin

[Address: near Graham, Allemanee, N. C.]

From Kenneth Rayner

RALEIGH—Feby 1864.

You will recollect the conversation we had, in reference to some lambs.

Now, I must try and obtain from you a modification of the arrangement, if not particularly objectionable to you. Instead of 8 or 10 lambs, I had a great deal rather have 4 or 5 ewes, with the lambs by their sides. In the first place, I can get them this spring, say in March (without having to wait till October) and thus let them have the benefit of my fine clover-lots this spring and summer. In the second place, I shall thus be hastening the increase of my flock to 25 or 30 which is about as many as I can well manage. I have it very much at heart to get a small flock of 25 or 30 fine sheep.

Now, I am aware you dont care to part with the lambs, even, much less with the grown ewes—and that if you let me have them, it will be merely to accommodate me, of course, I expect to pay a good price for them. If you should object, on account of the wool, they may yield in May, you must estimate for that, and put it in the price. I think you will have to strain a point, and let me have the ewes and lambs. If you can let me have them, have a rough box made to put them in, have an understanding with the agent at Graham station, that they *shall be certainly* sent on a given day—write—let me know the day—and my waggon shall be at the depot here to receive them on arrival.

My purpose is, to get the use of Gov. Manly's Buck this summer. He tells me he is a genuine Southdown Buck, that he got from Mr. Paul Cameron.

Now Judge, if you feel inclined to say "no," you must wait awhile and think of it. If you agree to let me have them, I will leave it to you as to the proper time to send them down.

I am still suffering very much from neuralgia. For most of the time since you left here I have been confined to the house. To day I feel better. I understand Pearson is greatly annoying Col. Mallett with his "Habeas Corpus"—turning loose deserters etc. I am informed that a day or two since, on Bat. Moore's twitting Mallett about Military men having no regard for constitution and law etc., Mallett replied to him—"Never mind, I hope I shall soon have a bit in your mouth and Pearson's too." Moore took it in high dudgeon, and is, I learn, vociferating about it on the street. I understand Mallett had to go all the way up to Pearson's a few days since to answer to a charge of contempt—a charge, as Gov. Bragg informs me based on nothing at all like contempt. Does not this show the necessity of suspending the "Habeas Corpus"?

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Jonathan Worth.

RALEIGH, March 4. 1864.

I have received an answer from Mr. Memminger. He refused to allow me to surrender the certificate of the Depository and receive the currency deposited—and says in reply to my request, in the contingency of such refusal, that the bonds be immediately sent, that they will be forwarded “as soon as prepared”—but offers no conjecture *when* they will be prepared.

The 4 per cent bonds are to be registered bonds. I inquired of him as to the mode of transfer—an important inquiry, as to their negotiability. He makes no reference to this inquiry.

I find on inquiry that most of those capable of forming a just opinion and who have considered the subject, concur with me that the 4 per cent bonds will not be saleable.

The currency act was ratified the 17 Feb and went in operation immediately. I funded the \$500,000 on the 18th. It seems to me this was a void act, there being no law in force authorising the funding in 6^s. If you think this view a correct one, shall I urge it on Mr. Memminger to induce him to restore me the currency? I can do through Mr. Winston who will leave for Richmond next Monday, if you desire it. If I had the currency I could invest in N. C. 8s at about 5 for one. I now think the investment in Con. 6s better than an investment in 4s. in any view of the Subject, I have been able to take.

Would like to hear from you tomorrow, by Telegram or otherwise. At all events by the mail reaching here Sunday morning.

From Peter Mallett to G. C. Mebane and Thomas Ruffin.

CONSCRIPT OFFICE,

RALEIGH, N. C. March 10th 1864.

G. C. Mebane Esr. and Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham, N. C.

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your joint communication of the 8th inst relative to exemption of certain parties in Alamance Co. In reply permit me to assure you that I appreciate

fully the urgent necessity for providing food for the army as well as the country at large, equally with the necessity for filling the depleted ranks of our forces.

I am disposed to give a favorable consideration to all cases entitled to indulgence and would be pleased if you would furnish me with a list of such persons, millers or farmers, as are fit subjects for the same in your country.

I am gentlemen

Very respectfully

Your ob'd't serv't

PETER MALLET, COLONEL

Commander of Conscripts for N. C.

Address:

G. C. Mebane Esqre and Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Graham, N. C.

From Drury Lacy.

GEN. MIL: HOSPITAL No. 2.

(WILSON, N. C. 12th—March '64)

I returned last night from a fatiguing trip to Lexington, Pittsboro, and Fayetteville,—where I had been on my Mission, as you may have seen announced in the papers. Mrs. Lacy soon prepared me some refreshments and among other things, a *toddy* made of Whiskey which she told me you had kindly sent down as a present. For this valuable gift, you will be pleased to accept my sincere thanks. Dr. S. our Surgeon in charge has made it obligatory on me to take at least one dram every day, assuring me that a man who had arrived at my age, absolutely needed it. The whiskey you have sent is so much better than any of the vile stuff I have been required to drink, that I don't know what I shall do, when it is all gone.

I leave home on *Tuesday* on a visit to Salisbury—Statesville and Charlotte, and will carry the jug up to Hillsboro and leave it with Mr. Cameron to be delivered to Mrs. Roulhac, from whom I trust you will get it safely.

Hon: Judge Ruffin.

From James Sloan

OFFICE CHIEF COMMISSARY OF SUBSISTENCE,
NORTH CAROLINA,
GREENSBOROUGH, March 17th, 1864.

I forwarded yesterday by Express to your address Graham
One Keg Contg.

5^{lb} 3^d Nails.

21^{lb} 6^d. “

21^{lb} 8^d. “

21^{lb} 10^d. “ .

1 Horse Shoe rasp and 1 small handsaw file.

My clerk in packing, did not observe that the weight used was 20 instead of 25 as I directed. Will however finish your order for nails on rect. of my next supply.

Have not been able to procure the Millsaw file.

Judge Ruffin

Graham N. C.

From Jonathan Worth

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
RALEIGH, Mar. 18th 1864.

A freak of the Stock-market for which I am unable to account has enabled me to invest the money belonging to the Comrs. of the Sinking Fund to much better advantage than I hoped for when I saw you,—and believing it to have been accomplished in conformity with the wishes of the Comrs and on the best terms possible, I feel relieved on this head.

I have recd. and turned over to the Com. 7 per cents, in Richmond,
at par \$138,000

and have purchased State bonds as follows—towit

32 8s at 333 1/3 14 8s at \$325.23 6s at 300 and 38

6s at 290 amounting with int. accrued to 332,157.83

470,157.83

This comes near balancing accounts between me, as Pub. Tr. and your fund:—and with my views on the subject, I most heartily congratulate you on the successful issue of our efforts.

I could sell a few 7 per cent Con. bonds at par and invest in N. C. 6s and 8s at about the same rates, which I believe to be expedient, but will not do without your sanction. If you desire this to be done write me immediately.

From William H. Oliver

GRAHAM Mar. 20/64

Thinking it would be an accomodation, I wrote to ascertain if the Government would exchange corn for Bacon. I reed an answer this morning. I enclose the letter. Please let me know tomorrow if you wish to exchange some and how much. There is only a small quantity of corn here belonging to the Government (most of it having been sold to the county), many will I think be anxious to exchange hence my anxiety to hear from you. We all regret to hear of your indisposition.

[P. S.] Please return Capt. Reynolds letter to me.

From William H. Oliver

GRAHAM Mar 20/64

Yours reed this evening. I regret you cannot avail yourself of the exchange proposed, I got it up allmost especially for your benefit. I will keep an eye on the matter and if anything should turn up by which some corn can be gotten I will advise you of it.

We all regret to hear of your suffering with the Rheumatism hope it will be of short duration.

I enclose Forty dollars in fives as requested.

From E. Burke Haywood

GENERAL HOSPITAL No. 7.

RALEIGH, N. C.

March 21st, 1864.

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the reception to day of nearly three and a half bushels of mercer potatoes. Please accept, for yourself and Mrs. Ruffin, the thanks of myself and the soldiers under my charge, for this valuable contribution to their garden seeds.

When I received the bag it evidently had been opened, and a portion of its contents abstracted. I will send Mrs. Atkinson one bushel and a half of them in the morning. Please present my kind regards to Mrs. Ruffin and Miss Patty.

From David A. Barnes

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
RALEIGH, March 25th 1864.

I have received your letter and take great pleasure in answering it. I hope you will not hesitate at any time to command my services. The General Assembly at its Late extra Session declared certain State officers exempt from conscription. The Governor will conform to this action, until the next meeting of that body, what action he will then take I am not advised, indeed I think he has not yet determined. Militia Officers are included among the exempts. You need not regard this as confidential.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

From John W. Broadnax

WELDON
March 26th 1864.

Your very kind and most welcome letter was received just as I was leaving this place and many thanks for it. It should have been answered whilst I was at home but for reasons assigned in a letter written to Cousin Alice I have still continued to improve slowly but I hope surely in truth I may say I am nearly well but have not as yet gained my strength and flesh, nor are my eyes exactly right although they are much improved as at one time I could not see well enough to write my name. But I very much fear this climate or location here will cause me to be again sick this summer and in my present situation it will even be worse than it was the last year as my constitution is not now so able to withstand disease as it was then, but I hope for the best if we should be ordered from this point to some other more healthy I should feel certain of getting pretty strong and stout again for the whole of last year we were down in this low country and I paid pretty dearly for it as I hardly saw a well day during the year, certainly not after June—but enough of my ailments. I came by Petersburg, there learned that Sally had gone home and that Patty was still at Janes but was expected in Petersburg. I understood Mr. Calander (whom I met on the street) to say that she would be down this week accompanied by Jane as they wanted to be in Petersburg at Easter, but I suppose you hear regularly of their movements. I fear she will have

an uncomfortable time as the cars are now crowded to overflowing many riding on top of the coaches, for there is but one train a day now from Richmond South. If the Piedmont road was done it might in some measure relieve the great pressure upon this route but of that I understood there was no prospect untill fall although there is but a little way to grade and only some fifteen miles to lay the iron down on. I heard that there were some conscripts working and employed as overseers who wished the work delayed as much as they could so as not to have to go into the army untill the campaign was over at least so I learned from Gov. Morehead through someone in Rockingham. I regret very much that you were not able to go up and see Uncle whilst he was so sick and regret it the more as I learned your own health prevented you from doing so, he was still looking very badly when I left him but has improved enough to ride out on his horse on good days of which we had a very fair proportion all the time I was at home: he was still very weak but had a pretty fair appetite and I thought was getting along as well as he could expect. I could not find out what was the matter with him and he hardly knew himself—all were well at your Plantation but I learn from John that you have heard from there since I left. Abbott saw my overseer just before I got home and was anxious that he should take some of his cattle to feed, being informed of it so soon as I reached home and found I had plenty of straw such as it was I sent him word that we could take care of some ten or twelve for him if straw would keep them and he sent over ten I believe, some of them were looking very well but the majority looked as if they would never see grass again I had the weak ones seperated from the others and turned them into the straw stack and I thought they had improved some and would get through unless there was a good deal of rain for in my experience with cattle they stand cold weather much better than they do rains especially if the rains come late in the winter or early spring. In my letter to cousin Alice I desired that you would reserve me the other 150 pounds of cotton and if you had any cotton seed to spare I would like to get enough to plant enough land to make as much cotton as I used. Will you please let me know whether I can get the seed or not, and I will send for them so soon as I can write home after hearing from you. John reached here after being detained that snowy day in Raleigh owing to the trains on the two roads not connecting. . . .

[Address Alamance, N. C.]

From Edmund Ruffin to Thomas S. Ruffin.

RUTTINER¹, March 28th 1864.

Mr. Thomas S. Ruffin

My dear grandson—Your short letter was received by our last mail conveyance. The confirmation thereby given of your release and return was to me the cause of great joy, and thankfulness that you were at last free from your long suffering in prison. Your captivity had been to me the subject of long and painful anxiety and sorrow. We had heard, some days earlier, a report that you had been exchanged, and had returned. But, though it seemed to be reliable, I feared to trust to the report,—and I had almost ceased to give it any credit, because of the lapse of time without information, when your letter and your father's were received, 13 days after your arrival at City Point. I am also very glad of your having the indulgence of a furlough and the opportunity of being at home, and seeing your relations and friends elsewhere. I shall be highly grateful with any share of your company which you promise at Ruttiner—as will be the others of the family. And I am glad that you have used part of your leave of absence to go to Alamance—not only for the pleasure of meeting with your sisters, but also for that of the acquaintance and company of the family. I am very sure that you will have made a very gratifying visit. Julian has been quite sick, at home, since his arrival last Thursday week. Though his disease was only bad cold with a very sore throat, and system generally deranged, he was confined to his bed for nearly a week. He did not sit up until the 26th, and did not walk out the house until this morning. He intends to return to his camp tomorrow. I use the earliest convenient opportunity to write to you, but fear it will be too late for this letter to reach you at Alamance. All here, except Julian, are well. I am as well in health, and as wearied and miserable as usual. If in time, give my love to my granddaughters, and to all of Judge Ruffin's

Affectionately, your grandfather

EDMUND RUFFIN

Judge Thomas Ruffin.

Dear Sir—I direct this to you that it may be opened and read in case Thomas shall have left you before its arrival. In that case it will not be worth while to forward it to him.

Yours truly

EDMUND RUFFIN.

[Address:

Judge Thomas Ruffin
Graham, N. Ca.]

¹The place cannot be identified, but nothing else can be made of the word as it appears twice in this letter.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—April 1st. 1864.

Has your attention been drawn to the notice of some of the tithe-collectors in this State, that in commuting for tithes, by payment of money—farmers will be charged 500 per cent? It seems such is the amended law of the last session of Congress—intended, I should suppose to operate prospectively; but which, they are construing to apply to the tithes of 1863. As I heard you say you proposed to commute by a money payment you had better look into this matter. My tithe of 15 Barrels of corn, would, at that rate, cost me \$3,750. I wrote to Geo. Davis on the subject, he referred my letter to the A. Q. M. Genl. J. Smith—and the latter endorsed on my letter, that by delivering corn to the Q. Master at Columbia So. Ca. his receipt would be available with the tithe Q. Master here. I have written to Columbia to ascertain on what terms I can get corn there; and whether the arrangement can be satisfactorily made. Do you know any one in Columbia? Had you not better write on at once, and make the necessary arrangements about your tithe. It will be a serious annoyance, to have to pay 500 per cent in money. If I can succeed and can be of any service to you, in arranging the matter for you, I will do so, with great pleasure.

I took up my potatoe plantings a few days since, and found 100 bushels rotten. I suppose I picked out some 8 or 9 bushels that I have bedded. How about your peaches? Here there are on some trees at least half that are uninjured, on the other trees, there is not one alive,—on the whole there may be a fourth of a crop. The pears and cherries—and the apples I take for granted—are unhurt.

There are no new developments here, in regard to the governor's election. Holden and his friends are unquestionably sanguine as to his prospects. It is stated here today that Richardson (the Broker) is a candidate for the Legislature, on the Holden ticket. I hear from several sources, that Leach's election, in the place of Christian, is no improbable thing. You may rely on it if the election were to take place tomorrow, Holden would in all probability be elected. And yet, I think, if our armies are successful in the approaching campaign, Holdenism will die out. The accounts from the East, all concur in the view, that the Yankees are threatening a demonstration from Newbern or Washington. I think they will, either seriously, or by way of diversion, advance from those places, when Meade moves towards Richmond.

I went down on Saturday last, to put in my seine for fishing. But we found so much water in the river, that we did not try it. I left on Sunday night. My partner Mr. Smith has been down all the week, and I am looking for him with some fish. I learn they are taking a great many shad in the Neuse, down about Kinston.

I am afraid you lost your turnips you had planted out for seed, in the late cold weather. Mine are nearly all killed—and yours were planted out first. If yours are not killed, I fear I shall have to violate my promise to you, that I would not call on you for turnip seed again this year. And hoping yours may not be killed, I will be in time, and bespeak a portion for planting again, this year.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance N. C.

From J. R. McLean.

GREENSBORO N. C.

April 1st, 1864.

I received your note in relation to the exemption of Mr. Dixons hands, on yesterday. I concur most heartily in the opinion that the foundry is indispensable to the farming and manufacturing interests. I don't think there will be any difficulty in procuring their exemption, when their time for enrolment arrives.

I have signed their application but I do not suppose my name will have any more influence than that of any other private citizen. I have no official connection with the government whatever and no more to do with enrolment or exemption than any other citizen.

From John W. Broadnax

PLYMOUTH April 22nd 64.

A glorious and magnificent victory has been at last accomplished in the Old North State and God grant it may be the forerunner of many more until the State has not a single Yankee *in arms at least* within her borders we reached here on last Sunday evening captured 9 of the post pickets killed one two escaping and took them completely by surprise some of us that did not know much about it thought that the Gen's ought to have gone right into town but it was very apparent after we got there that if we had it would have been a perfect failure; the whole affair was managed as far as I am able to judge with considerable skill and Judgment and resulted in one of the most brilliant affairs of the war we had about (6000) six thousand men, the Yankees (3000) three thousand, they behind fortifications the best that I have seen any where during the war in truth they were complete. The town was surrounded by an embankment and six forts, one outside and the

others in the line of breastworks outside of the forts and embankments there was a ditch some 6 or 8 feet deep and in the centre of the ditch around the forts was a row of poles set up, about ten feet long, and sharpened at the upper ends, about two or three inches apart, they had mounted on these fortifications 17 seventeen guns several of them 120 pounders and the others of smaller size down to 32 pounders. The fortifications were just immediately around the town and they had forces sufficient to line them with infantry, outside of the fortifications the timber was cut down on all sides where there was a swamp that was impassable it was cut down to the swamp, but where there was no swamp it was cut down for over a mile. I have thus given you some faint Idea of the place as it stood when we reached here. We had Ransom's Brigade a part of Hokes and a part of Kempers one of our regiments was down the Chowan and one of Clingmans the 8th Snows old regiment was sent out from Petersburg to take its place one regiment of Cavalry and about 30 pieces of artillery on Sunday evening some little fighting was done then all was quiet until Monday evening, Ransoms Brigade was put in front to make a feint while Hoke took his and Kemper's Brigade and charged on the left on the upper side of town the first charge that was made they passed the first fort which was some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the main works but did not take it as they could not get into it, in a second charge later in the night they succeeded in taking it by surrounding and shooting every man that raised his head above the walls an attempt was then made on the main fortifications but failed, Tuesday night another plan was formed, Hoke kept the force he had at first on the left and sent Genl Ransom with his Brigade down the river to attack it on the Right the attack was to commence at day light there was a creek over which the pontoons had to be put, the bridge having been taken up by the Yanks and after crossing this stream there was a considerable swamp with a crosway road for some distance, had this place been strongly defended it would have been almost impossible for our Brigade to have gone over, as it was, there were only about 200 present to defend it, they ought to have kept us in check, the Gen. sent some of his aids forward to reconoitre the position. We sent a man over after a small boat on the opposite side the fellow swam over and got the boat and with that about 100 men were sent over who soon cleared the way, the Pontoons were soon laid and the whole Brigade passed over and got in position ready for a charge. They started a little before day and fort after fort fell before the old Brigade until four had succumb there was then only one left the most formidal one of the whole that without scaling ladders it was impossible for us to scale but we being in town it was soon surrounded and not a man was allowed to show his head over the fort finding it impossible to accomplish any thing the Stars and Stripes were hauled down and the Battle Flag placed upon the ramparts. Such a shout of joy as rent the air you never heard. Such

is as accurate a description as I can give it to you in a letter of the attack and reduction of Plymouth which I think is a very important place because according to my view of the matter it is the key to the balance of the State occupied by the enemy. Our Iron clad ran down the river by their Battery of 200 pounders and sustained no damage and so soon as she was seen coming the gun boats of the Yankees left, the next day after she came down on Tuesday two boats came up with a cable running from one to the other and attempted to run the Gun Boat ashore she turned on one of them and ran into it sinking it immediately drowning 120 out of 127 men. The other took off down the river like a frightened hare. Col. Dearing of the Cavalry but formerly an artillery officer was in charge of the artillery and sunk another gun boat with four guns one the Albemarle sunk had 8 guns on. She was a valuable assistant as it protected our men from their gun boats. Now for the results we lost 405 in our Brigade wounded a few of them mortally and some amputations were performed (31) thirty one killed on the field five officers and 26 privates, how many in the other two Brigades I dont know, but their loss is small. The old Brigade retained its former reputation and added new sources. It is considered one of the most Brilliant charges of the war. Col. Wood of Pres. Davis's staff and one of the Picketts staff were present and they say it was one of the most brilliant charges they ever knew not a man faltered all vied with each other to see who could plant their Flag first on the walls and I expect never did a Brigade march more nobly up to its work than it did, a high compliment to its old commander Gen. R. Ransom for in his hands it was disciplined and would have done its duty with any man who would have told them what to do but all concur in saying that Gen. M. Ransom acted *very well* and bravely. The artillery in the whole command behaved with great gallantry as did Hokes and Kempers Brigade. We took 2480 prisoners killed about 500 caught any number of negroes men women children of all ages, among the negroes are some of Mr. Pettigrews. Not a Yankee escaped that Joe knows of. About 200 horses some fifty or sixty mules and wagons to match a large quantity of Hay Corn Oats, and fodder, (100,000) one hundred thousand pounds of Pork and Bacon 500 or 600 Barrels of flour as much Hard Bread a good deal of coffee sugar and Rice soap etc, but I did not see any Liquor, not a drop, the suttlers stores were handed over to the soldiers as were the camps and they went into the goods and good things with a perfect relish, before three hours the whole store were rid of their contents.

We took 22 guns besides the 12 that were on the boats and a great many small arms and a good deal of ammunition. God grant that this may be an harbinger of the future victories that we are to accomplish during this year and that they all may turn out as successful. It is the impression here that we will march from here to Wash-

ington but whether well founded or not time will show the men are ready for it and think now they can storm any place. I am afraid you will find some difficulty in reading this but cousin Alice can for you. . . .

[Address: Graham Alamance N. C.]

*From William R. Cox*¹

HEAD QUARS. 2D N. C. STATE TROOPS

ARMY NO. VA.

23 April, 1864.

I have the honor to address you as one of the Commissioners appointed by the Convention of N. Carolina to treat with, and transfer the ten regiments of N. Carolina State Troops to the Confederate States, and to request your opinion in such form as may be used in the solution of questions involved in the following statement. You will doubtless remember that at the commencement of hostilities, a Bill was passed authorizing the organization of a corps of two thousand troops for State defence, and under the provisions of that Bill this regiment was organized, the Governor was empowered to make the appointment of all its officers, which he has continued to do from that time to the present. A case has arisen in this regiment, in which the Confederate authorities have seen proper not only to question but to ignore, the right of His Excellency the Governor of N. Carolina, by making an appointment of Captain to one of the companies which already has a Captain commissioned by the Governor of N. Carolina, on the ground that the Governor's appointment was irregular, they first however conferred with His Excellency Gov. Vance on the subject, who replied that the appointment was made by his predecessor, that he would refuse to go behind the acts of his predecessor, and furthermore having the right to make all the appointments in these regiments he could recognize no reviewing authority. The issue then is simply this, has or has not the Governor of N. Carolina under the terms of the treaty, the right to make these appointments? We understand, that under the terms of that treaty, that these troops were turned over (with their organization) and the right reserved by N. Carolina to make the appointments as they were made previous to said transfer, and in the pursuance of this construction of the treaty, all of its officers heretofore have and now receive their commissions from the State. The Con-

¹William Ruffin Cox, 1832-1919, at this time Colonel of the 2d regiment. Less than a month later he was promoted to brigadier.

federate States authorities being unable to obtain a reconsideration of the act of the Governor, and being unable to coerce the State into a concession of their claim, has seemed proper to pursue a course which I cannot characterize otherwise than illiberal and unjust toward the commanding officer of this regiment, for they have sought to compel him by orders, to recognize the validity and legality of their right to appoint an officer in this regiment. Expressing his great willingness to obey all orders emanating from the Confederate authorities which are not involved in doubt and uncertainty, he has very respectfully requested of them that this question might first be settled at the proper and legitimate tribunal which he conceived to be, that, at which questions between the two governments are adjusted. My superior officers have thus far seen proper to sustain me in this position, but the War Department has directed that charges should be preferred against me, if its order is not obeyed; while not in the least concerned by such a threat, when satisfied that I am right, I wish to be further confirmed in my position by your views on the subject. If no stipulation in this treaty expressly reserves this right to the State of N. Carolina, I am satisfied that the custom which has always prevailed should now control in these appointments, and does establish a right.

Disliking to trouble you with matters of this nature, my apology for doing so must be the high opinion that is entertained for your profound abilities as a lawyer and the importance of your opinion as one of the commissioners, to place me *rectus in curia*.

The army is in fine health and spirits and we are sanguine of the result when we shall meet the followers of Grant. We hear from reliable authority that bitter political dissensions are dividing his command. We are highly elated at the intelligence from N. Carolina and the South West.

Please direct your reply as follows, Ramseurs Brigade Ewells Corps A. N. V.

* * * * *

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—May 11th—1864.

I have been very much concerned and very anxious about you, since I first heard of your illness; but my anxiety has been very much relieved, on hearing that your physician had expressed the opinion, that your disease had been conquered, and that now nature must do the work of restoring your strength, which of course, would require time. My purpose has been to go up to see you; and I should have done so,

before now, but that I understand there is very great difficulty in getting along on the rail-roads, owing to the great pressure and the stringency of orders by the government. I hope I shall be able to get up to see you in a few days.

Our news is indeed cheering from the seat of war. I suppose you get the news every morning, almost as soon as we get it here; therefore I need not go into any detail in regard to it. The prestige of our series of successes on the Rapidan, must have a very powerful moral effect in encouraging our soldiers, and in depressing those of the enemy. Nothing but overwhelming numbers—(such as I do not believe the Yankees have) can enable them to overcome Genl. Lee. It really does seem that Providence is on our side—for ever since the opening of the campaign, this spring, we have been successful on every line of operations. I presume there can scarcely be a doubt but Bank's army has been *destroyed*. If so, there is nothing to prevent Kirby Smith and Price being in Missouri in 30 or 40 days.

I learned that Hoke could, and would, have taken Newbern in 48 hours, if he had not received orders to retire—that he had reduced those *formidable* block-houses, which had struck such terror into Barton¹, on the previous expedition—that as he retired from the place, he heard the guns of our iron-clad, the Albemarle, that was then engaged with the 9 gun-boats of the enemy, 2 of which she sank, and disabled 3 more. It was that attack on the "Albemarle," that prevented her arriving at Newbern, in time to act in concert with Hoke. I understand that Hoke was mortified and provoked beyond measure, on receiving his orders to retire; as he had set his heart on taking Newbern. Two gentlemen here Mr. Grimes and Mr. Cowper, have just returned from Washington, where they have been, since the place was abandoned by the Yankees. They represent it, as a perfect desolation—the greater portion of the place burnt. They say that the few negroes that were left, describe their treatment by the Yankees, as almost intolerable. They took off most of the negroes with them—drove them off on their vessels by main force. I learn that some of our people there enquired of the Yankee officers, what they were going to do with the negroes. The reply was—they were going to take them to Hatteras, where, said they, they will all die, but that die they should, rather than the damned rebels should have them. Our people pulled out of the dock at Washington the floating bodies of 18 negromen, drowned in the confusion of getting off, they did not know how.

Colo. Ed. Haywood and Mr. Andrews both left on Saturday night to go to look after the bodies of their brothers—but had to return, from Weldon, not being able to get on. Young Wm. Haywood's family yet hope there is a mistake about his death, as Col. Haywood, to whose

¹Bridgadier General Barton who had served under Picket the preceeding year.

regiment William belonged has had no despatch from any one—the statement of his death resting on a despatch from young Henry Miller, who belongs to a different corps. Poor Mrs. Haywood! what a severe trial is hers? Does not every thing you see and hear of Genl. Lee, serve to elevate him in your estimation? So unselfish—so devoted to the cause in which he is engaged,—so reliant on God for everything! John Devereux told me today he had understood (I dont know from what quarter) that Cook's and Kirkland's regiments (which it seems were terribly cut to pieces) had sworn that they would not fight another battle, under the orders of A. P. Hill—that he had twice allowed them to be cut to pieces, by his miserable want of generalship; and that, they did not intend to be served so a third time. Some how or other, A. P. Hill has been losing reputation, for some time; and I am afraid he is more of a martinet, than a general.

I know very little of what is going on in political matters. I scarcely ever see anything of either Vance or Holden. I believe the friends of both are very sanguine. I heard yesterday, to my surprise, that Todd Caldwell had come out for Holden. My authority is Wm. Harrison, Holden's brother in law. I don't take Vance's new paper here "the Conservative"—but I learn the tone of it is such, as to displease many of the true Southern rights men.

We are very much in need of rain. The corn is very backward in coming up. The wheat has improved, for the last 4 weeks, beyond any thing I have ever seen. I now regard the prospect for a good wheat crop as very cheering. I notice today, that my wheat is headed out, and in bloom. The oat crop is backward.

In regard to fruit, I notice the apple trees promise a most abundant yield. I dont think I ever saw them so full of young fruit. The pear crop is moderate one. I have scarcely any peaches on the improved and cultivated varieties; whilst all the *seedlings* have plenty. The prospect for cherries is very good. No apricots, and but few plums.

I have made a failure, fishing with my seine. I have caught hardly any fish. There have been none of account up the Neuse—thought to be owing to obstructions put in the river below, by the Yankees.

I look forward to the time, when you will down here again—when we can walk about and I can shew you my little farm and my grapevines and fruit-trees; and we can compare opinions, and talk over the events of the times. I assure you, my good friend, that you have my prayers for your speedy recovery—that you may yet be spared to your devoted family, and to your friends who esteem you so highly. I pray God, you may live to see your country redeemed and independent—and our rights and liberties placed on a firm and secure basis. I know how ardently and anxiously you have longed to see the day of our deliverance; and I hope you and I may live to see the time, when we can sit down and talk over the dangers through which our

country has passed, with the calm and tranquil assurance, that our children will have a country and a government to protect them, after we are called away.

Let me advise you, my good friend, to be patient. It will take *time*, to restore your strength and activity. Don't let your mind be disturbed about your out-door affairs. With the blessing of God, you will enjoy the "harvest," although you may not be able to supervise the details of seed-time."

* * * * *

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Alamance, N. C.

From Jonathan Worth

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH June 4th 1864.

Hoping that your health is restored so as to enable you to attend to business I desire to call your attention to matters relating to the Sinking Fund.

I learned from Mr. Webb some weeks back that after the passage of the late tax and currency acts of Congress the Directors of the N. C. R. R. resolved to pay the tax imposed on the Stock of the individual corporators out of the corporate funds and to set apart for the State a proportionate amount—and that this amount so set apart was \$150,000 or thereabouts, and that under the order of the Directors, he had taken 4 per cent certificates for it.

I am not authorized by law to receive Confederate bonds or certificates. Have the Comrs. of the Sinking Fund power to order me to receive the amounts due them in a medium different from that in which I am authorized to collect other public dues? If you think you have such power, will you deem it expedient to direct me to receive these bonds? If I am to receive them, will it be with the view of retaining them as a permanent investment, or a reconversion by sale into currency. If they are received with the last view, it is necessary they should be put in market soon, as I presume they will greatly depreciate after the payment of the tax of this year,—and if you decline to receive them, the Road should know it without delay.

If the bill which has passed the Senate, allowing the States to exchange for the new issue, at par, one half the currency on hand on the 1st. Apl; and to take 4 per cent untaxable bonds for the other half shall pass the House, this \$150,000 ought to be considered, as on hand on the 1 Apl. and exchanged and invested under the provisions of the new act.

The Assembly just adjourned has made heavy appropriations and I shall be forced to raise large amounts before the next tax comes in. I think you will not be troubled in investing your income for a few months to come.

I submit these suggestions for your consideration, hoping you are restored to perfect health so that you may consider them without inconvenience.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

From David L. Swain

CHAPEL HILL, 13, June 1864.

Your letter of the 11th has just been brought in from the Post office, and I hasten to reply by return mail.

I will endeavour to meet you in Raleigh on the 30th as proposed. I will write to Mr. Worth tomorrow. That we are bound to receive the Rail Road dividend in Confederate 4 per-cents, the same funds having been paid to the individual stockholders, I entertain no doubt and will unite with you in so instructing them. We must of course, since contrary to the expectation expressed to us at our last meeting, he finds himself short of funds, make such disposition of the 4 per-cent bonds, as will minister most effectually to the needs of the Treasury. I agree with you, in opinion that it will be expedient to sell and exchange the proceeds for the State bonds, which he will be compelled to issue. The indications from Congress, however, are that all will have longer time for reflection and action, than you suppose. The bill now under consideration, as I understand it, proposes to compute the value of tithes for the present year, as a set off against the 5 per cent tax on lands and slaves, and suspend the collection of this tax until the value of the tithes to be deducted can be ascertained. Congress it seems is to adjourn on Thursday at noon, and before the close of the week, we will probably be able to ascertain definitely what has been done upon the subject. The Bill, I ought to have stated in connexion with the extension of time for the payment of taxes, extends *pari passus*, the time during which the 4 per-cent bonds shall be receivable.

I am very glad to find that you are not merely able to write, but to express yourself with your wonderful force and clearness on matters requiring thought and consideration. I suggested to a friend a few days ago my intention to write and congratulate you on returning health, so soon, as I could ascertain, you were in a condition to read, and relish the expression of kind concern with which intelligence of

your very serious illness had affected so many friends. Your letter I am glad to say, affords conclusive evidence that I might safely have ventured the experiment, at an earlier day.

Mrs. Swain found herself very little able to meet some of our friends at dinner on Commencement day, and entirely unable, to take leave of her guests Gov. Vance and Dr. Deems, on their departure next morning. Before night Dr. Mallett, pronounced her dangerously ill, and during 24 hours afterwards, we all entertained most painful apprehensions of the result. I felt the more alarmed because Dr. Jones, the physician who has attended her for many years, was absent searching the battle field at the Wilderness for the remains of his oldest son, with which he returned on Wednesday.

I thank God, that though still feeble, and not free from disease, she seems to be gradually improving with reasonable prospect of ultimate restoration.

I write unavoidably in great haste, on this slazy paper, and fear I shall impose quite a task upon you, in attempting to decipher the manuscript. May God, bless and preserve you as long as life may be desirable. "I would not live away."

Hon. Tho. Ruffin.

[Address: Graham (Alamance Co.) N. C.]

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—June 15th—1864.

I received your kind letter this morning whilst we were in affliction, at the sad news of the death of Gen: Polk. I have today received a despatch from Atlanta, confirming the intelligence. This is terrible news, indeed, terrible for his country—and still more terrible to his bereaved family. I have heard nothing more than you saw in this morning's paper, of the circumstances of his death. It must have been a stray or random shot—I suppose. How inscrutable are the ways of Providence! On several occasions, Gen. P. has made such narrow escapes, that it would seem as if Almighty Power had specially interposed in his favor—And at last, he has fallen, where apparently there would seem to have been no danger. I know of no family where the death of its head could have wrought a greater moral desolation. His family idolised him, and well they might,—for he made every thing bright and joyous, around him; and you know, his character was well calculated to inspire respect and regard among all who approached him. My poor wife is deeply grieved. She loved her brother very much—and she felt proud of him too. Sally had started to Hillsboro,

to pay a visit of some weeks, in persuanee of a purpose long entertained, and she had it in view to have paid you a visit, before she returned, on getting to the Depot she heard of her uncle's death—and immediately returned to try to comfort her mother. Her visit is now postponed indefinitely. I should, on receiving your letter, have gone up to your house about the first of next week. Now I can't say when I can go up. Fortunately Gen: P's family will be comfortably provided for. Mrs. P. has a *very* valuable plantation in Mis. and some 150 slaves.

I was very much pleased to see that you were able to write a good long letter. You must have had a narrow escape from your long attack of illness. You must not overdo the matter, in trying to get *well* too fast. Husband your strength and don't get impatient about your out-door affairs. I shall be very much pleased to see you down here, when you come. Advise me 2 or 3 days in advance, when you do come. But anxious as I am to see you, I beg of you, not to come, till you feel sure your strength has sufficiently improved to enable you to bear the fatigue of the trip. I will attend to having your advertisement in regard to "*Lambs*," put in the "*Confederate*." I would not be surprised, if the *Butchers* applied for all you have. I hope you will not sell them to the butchers. The stock ought to be preserved and disseminated through the country. I reckon I must leave it to you to pick out my lambs,—of course I want *as good as you have*. I think I will take 10—say one half males, and the other half females. In selecting mine, I want as much of the South Down blood, as I can get. I think it probable I may wish to pay you for mine in 7.30 interest-bearing notes. Money of the "new issue," is difficult to get; and I am not sure that I shall not have to sell 7.30 notes to raise money to pay my *State* and *Town* taxes. In selecting my Lambs, select one of the earliest and largest ram-lambs, that is 7/8 or at least 3/4 South-down;—that I may preserve him for a Buck.

I am cutting my wheat to-day. The heads are large, and the grain good, but it is too thin by far, having been winter-killed—My first has turned out, and promises, badly. No apricots—the cherries promised pretty well at one time, but the sweet cherries all cracked and rotted, during the rainy spell some 10 or 12 days since. Very few pears—and really, I believe I shall lose all my pear trees, by blight. I now have some 6 or 8 young trees that will die from it. And all my apple trees are suffering from a kind of blight, that kills all the young and tender growth of this spring. The trees are pretty full of apples, but the fruit is stung by the apple-circulio almost every one in four or five places, at best, they must be knotty and indifferent.

My dear friend, I try to attend to my out-door employments, to keep my mind from brooding over the horrors produced by this war. And I now write to you about crops, and fruit, and lambs, etc.—whilst my heart is aching. This war has changed, as it were, my whole

character. I feel no disposition to go from my own home, and scarcely ever go down town unless I have business. Thank God! I have a heart to feel for the suffering of others. And most acutely do I feel for the crushed and heart-broken parents, widowed wives, bereaved sisters, and orphan children, that are to be found in every village and neighborhood. And yet, am I mistaken, in supposing that the great majority of our people have become callous, and in a measure heartless? Every day,—yea, almost every hour, I ask myself the question—what is to be the end of all this? I sometimes fear, that this slaughter of the best and bravest, and noblest of our people, will not leave enough of true conservative patriotism, to guard and protect our country and its institutions, even supposing our independence secured. And yet, it must all be *right*. God never errs. *His* work is all perfect. To doubt his goodness, his wisdom, his mercy—is to doubt his existence. 'Tis hard to realise in our own case—but I am as convinced as I am of my own existence—that the true philosophy of life consists in loving God better, even for his afflictions sent on us. 'Tis a mere *question of time*, with us all, as to when we may be called away—and a very *short* time, at that.

Bear with me my friend, in speaking of myself and my feelings. I never had such feelings, as have oppressed me to day. 'Tis strange how many shades of grief, there are. When poor Robin Jones fell, I was affected deeply. I loved Rob. He was a lovable character. I was touched, deeply touched. I could *weep* for him; and I found grief in tears. When I heard of Gen. Polk's death, I was shocked, stunned, horrified. I felt, and still feel, as if I were unnerved, riven with lightning. I can scarcely realize it. And besides my own feelings, it wounds me to see my poor wife so distressed.

Since I commenced this letter I have received a telegram from Mr. Gales, Gen. Polk's son in law, and a member of his staff. He simply says Gen. P. was killed on yesterday (Tuesday) whilst reconnoitering the enemy's lines, with Gen. Johnson.

* * * * *

Hon: Thos. Ruffin
Alamance, N. C.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, Eldridge Smith (the Butcher) has come in. On my mentioning the matter to him, he says he will take every lamb you have to spare, and pay you \$30 a piece for them. If you are disposed to let him have them there is no use of going to the expense of advertising. Write immediately, and let me know. K. R.

From Alfred A. Watson¹ to W. H. Oliver

WILMINGTON, June 16, 1864.

W. H. Oliver Esq

Dear Sir

Yours of the 10th I recd yesterday. At the time to which you refer I was without any settled *parochial* work and craved—as I do still—the quiet of the country. But since then I have become committed to the work and responsibility (for the time at least) of a very important and agreeable field which I would not feel at liberty in present circumstances—did I even wish it—to abandon. Were I still post chaplain I do not know that I should hesitate. But situated as I am and tied as I am, I must, with many thanks however for the consideration which has introduced the invitation, decline changing my position at present.

It would be especially agreeable—if I *were* to change—to do so in the direction you propose—to get among my old parishioners and fellow citizens again and in the neighborhood moreover of my highly valued friends Judge Ruffin and his family. But just now—my lot is cast here.

Please remember me affectionately to all the family—to Judge Ruffin also and his family.

It is true that *Isaac* was killed in May?

Yours affectionately

ALFRED A. WATSON

I shall always be glad to see [you] here and can generally give you a bed so do not go to the hotel.

From Weldon N. Edwards

POPLAR MOUNT 16th June 1864.

I had the pleasure to receive two days ago your very kind and truly welcome letter of the 11th inst. and the day after one from Treasurer Worth. I should have replied to yours yesterday, but gave the morning hour to answering Mr. Worths—it being the only part of the day, when I feel I can work. I send herewith a copy of my answer to him—as it prevents the labor of a full reply to yours—I had rather copy three pages than “think out” half a page. Every day seems to bring with it fresh evidence of the decrepitude of long life—and of

¹Rev. Alfred A. Watson had been chaplain of the Second North Carolina, but was now rector of St. James' Church, Wilmington. He was elected Bishop of the diocese of East Carolina in 1874 and died in 1905.

course the indolence of old age daily increases. You see my suggestion about the \$5 notes. Am I in error in this? The sale of the 4 pr. ct. Con. Bonds must be attended with great sacrifice—coming in competition with the *untaxable* Con: Bonds soon to be sold—at a time when the circulation of new issue does not exceed, I think, 60 millions. Yet I am clear we should sell—It could not be sound Policy to hold stock whose yield is so much below what the State has to pay. I need not assure you—my good friend! that I truly rejoiced at the superscription of your letter—before opening it—it told me that you were still left to your friends and country and inspired the hope that I may once more, if not oftener, see you. The first intimation I had of your illness—was thro' the Papers—announcing that you were recovering—I would have hurried to you—but learnt you were confined in Rockingham—and latterly the cars have been so crowded and running all night from Ridgeway—I despaired of being able to bear the inconveniences and fatigue. The Boys from Dr. Wilson told me that they had to ride on the Platform.

* * * * *

To Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.
Near Graham.

[ENCLOSURE.]

From Weldon N. Edwards to Jonathan Worth.

15th June 1864.

Dear Sir.

I recd, yesterday yr. letter of the 13th Inst. informing me that the N. C. R. R. had invested a portion of its funds in Conf. 4 pr. Cent Bonds and that the Pr. had given you to understand that he would offer the same in payment or part payt. of the next dividend to the State. You submit to me this question. Ought the State to accept these bonds or should the road be required to pay into the Treasury the amt. of the same in old issue?

This question involves an inquiry into the rights of the Corporation as well as of the State. It is clear, I think, that the Corp. has the right to regulate its freights and the mediums of payment and that this right cannot be impaired by legislation—so long as it observes its chartered obligations—It is also clear that it may receive for freight money or money's value in notes or other evidences of indebtedness, which, when recd, become the effects or common property of the Company—not the separate property of the Stockholders—to be used, employed and managed as may be deemed most promotive of the In-

terests of the whole and may be distributed in Dividends, at such times and in such proportions (always observing equality) as a just and prudent administration of its affairs may warrant. It is, I submit, a mistake to suppose that the State has any separate rights of property, before a dividend is declared. Therefore it cannot be said that any investment of the common funds is "the use of the State's money." If in the use or employment of the common funds by investment or otherwise, loss results, it may be cause—I do not say it is—for complaint of mismanagement—but it cannot alter or affect the right or authority of the Company to distribute, in the shape of dividend, such portion, as it may deem proper, of its effects in hand at the usual periods of distribution—and that the stockholders are bound to receive their Respective dividends with the depreciation or appreciation which the circumstances of the Country or the condition of the currency may have occasioned.

Entertaining these views, to the consideration of which I have devoted all the time allowed by a desire to give you an early answer. I am clearly of opinion, that the Co. has the right to distribute the 4 pr cent bonds and the notes of whatever kind in hand—and that you—as Representative of the State—are bound to receive the State's fair and just proportion of each included in the general amount set apart for dividend—to be ascertained by the amt. of stock held respectively by the State and other Stockholders.

By the 12th Sec: of the act "*To fund, tax and limit the currency*" any State holding \$5 notes reed. before the 1st July 1864 is allowed till 1st Jany 1865 to fund the same in 6 pr. Ct. Conf. Bonds. Could not the difficulty suggested by you be gotten over by notifying the Pr. of the R. R. that you would receive \$5 notes (advance payment) if paid before 1st July 1864. He has no doubt many of them—probably reed. at a discount—and would, I think, be glad to pay them to the State, to prevent loss to her, while the Road would make much profit. If this suggestion is approved my associates Messrs. Ruffin and Swain—the time being short—I would be pleased for you to attempt at once the negotiation.

Should however nothing of the kind be practicable, I am satisfied it would be advisable to sell any 4 pr. Cents you may be obliged to receive—rather than hold stock yielding only 4 pr. Ct. when the State is paying 6 pr. Ct. Whatever you may do conformably to these views, with the concurrence of my Colleagues R. and S.—will certainly be sanctioned by the formal action of the Board at its first meeting—which will soon occur.

With, etc., etc.,

W. N. EDWARDS.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH June 16th 1864.

I have recd letters both from Govr. Swain and Mr. Edwards, expressing their entire concurrence in your views, all proceeding on the ground that the road may receive its earnings in any medium it may choose and pay out the same to its Stockholders. I concede this—but the road did not receive the bonds for its earnings. It set apart a portion of its earnings to pay the taxes due from its individual corporators and invested it advantageously for them. When this sum was so set apart a corresponding sum in proportion to her stock, was due to the State. It seems to me the Road had no right to invest this amount due to the State, in *any* stocks; and as the State had no tax to pay, it was an investment essentially prejudicial to the State's interest. I know the Road meant no injury to the State, but doubtless thought it conducive to her interests: but if they did it, unauthorised, and committed an error, they should sustain the loss growing out of their error, and not the State. In these views I am doubtless wrong. The opinion of any one of you I readily concede entitled to more consideration than mine,—and I desire to take the most efficient steps to make the loss of the State as small as possible.

It being settled that I am to receive the bonds, the sooner I can get them the better. I suppose they will not be delivered till after a dividend is declared in July—by which time I fear they will have essentially depreciated.

An act has passed Congress as I understand, not yet published, (a copy of which I have taken measures to procure) authorising the State to exchange, at par, for new issue, on one half the currency on hand on the 1 Apr. and to invest the other half in untaxable 4 per cent coupon bonds. Now the amount invested for the State in these 4 per cent bonds, was currency substantially belonging to the State on 1 Apl; and if the amount, or any part of it, could be paid into the Treasury in old issue—any size of bills—with the certificate of the Treasurer that it was in the Treasury of the Company and due to the State on the 1 Apl, it would be far better for the State; and it has occurred to me as possible that the Road might be willing to retain the bonds or a part of them, and pay into the Treasury, in old issue, the amount, with a certificate of the facts. Could you not send for Mr. Webb to go down from the shops to see you on the subject—and make an arrangement according to this suggestion—or for the immediate delivery of the bonds—as you and he may deem best?

I leave on Saturday to attend to my harvest and shall probably be absent all next week.

I am gratified to hear of your improving health.

From James N. Edmonson to Capt. C. R. King.

OFFICE FIELD TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
GREENSBORO June 20th 1864.

Capt. C. R. King

Sir:

In purchasing and impressing animals for the use of the Confederate States Government, you will be governed by the following rules:

1. You will estimate all animals on a farm over three years old as work animals, and all animals not absolutely necessary to make the growing crop must be considered surplus.

2. Brood mares and stallions are to be exempted, but where they are worked they must be estimated in the general stock.

3. Pleasure horses are the first to be taken and all animals not actually employed in necessary Government or other work indispensable to human support, must be considered pleasure animals.

4. It is impossible to establish any fixed rule as to the number of acres to be allowed to the horse, owing to the diversity of soil in the different counties. This the neighborhood and your own good judgment must establish.

5. When the question arises as the ability or inability of the owner to spare the animal impressed the question shall be settled by a Board of loyal citizens of the county (two in number), who shall decide the question at issue, and you shall in all cases be governed by such decision.

You will take pains to impress upon the citizens the urgent demand there now exists in Gen. Lee's Army, for horses and mules. There are now many Batteries of Artillery inactive for the want of horses to pull them; and entire Brigades are without the necessary teams to supply them with provisions.

I feel confident that when the citizens understand the magnitude of the stake and the importance and immediate demand for these animals that they will cheerfully surrender their surplus; but where they refuse you must resort to the painful expedient of impressment.

In making impressments you will be governed by the law respecting the same.

All animals collected will be brought to this office immediately, where the price will be fixed by agreement with the parties, or by a Board of citizens and payment made in new issue.

As soon as you have gone over your District you will report promptly to this office.

JAS. N. EDMONSON
Secy and Inspt Fld. Transpt. N. C.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—June 23d—1864.

On receiving your letter some 7 or 8 days since, I wrote you, saying I would take 10 lambs— $1\frac{1}{2}$ males, and the other half females, and would leave the selection to you, preferring those that had most South Down blood in them. I said further, that as Mr. Eldridge Smith (the Butcher) said he would take all the balance you had to spare at \$30 a head—I would postpone advertising, till I could hear further from you, on the subject. Not having heard from you, I fear my letter may not have reached you.

Please write immediately and let me know your conclusion—shall I say to Smith he can have the lambs—or shall I advertise them?

* * * * *

The news this morning, is, that the Yankees have cut the wires, and considerably injured the track of the Petersburg and Weldon road, about nine miles, this side of Petersburg. We received no Richmond or Petersburg papers this morning. I was at the Bank a few hours ago. Wm. Anderson informed me, that young Mr. Symme reached here this morning from Weldon—that he (Symme) said he was informed by the mail-agent (I think it was) on the Petersburg road—that Gen: Lee had managed to get in the rear of Grant and that it was thought that this morning, Lee and Beauregard would attack the Yankee army in both front and rear; and that the opinion and feeling among our people was that the Yankees were in a position from which they could not escape. I don't know what reliance is to be placed in this statement.

I have harvested my little crop of wheat, and threshed out about 100 bushels, to get something to eat. I find it quite sorry—the grain shrivelled and small. I think it must have been owing to the heavy rains washing off the bloom. For I notice my latest wheat, that bloomed after the heavy rains—is much the best. I expect to feed my negroes on my wheat—for I have not a bushel of corn and can't get it. I expect to call on you to put up for me 8 or 10 barrels of your best flour. Please let me hear from you.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, June 26/64.

I have contracted for \$10,000 in N. C. 8 per cent bonds, in exchange for \$42,500 in the 4 per cent bonds to be recd. from the N. C. R. R.

These 4 per cent bonds are worth par in old issue—and the purchase those amounts to a little over $2\frac{3}{4}$ for one, new issue.

I believed this to be the best which could be done, in which I am fortified by the opinion of Mr. Mordecai whom I have consulted; but I will make no further purchase till after your meeting on the 30th, as I hope a better arrangement can be made, on the plan suggested to you in my letter of the 16th inst.

* * * * *

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—July 4th—1864.

I send this by Mr. E. Smith who goes up for the lambs. I want you to select *ten* for me, the *best* and *finest*, of course, with the greatest proportion of the *South Down* blood. Among them a buck lamb, to be preserved. Send 6 females, and 4 males. Mark my 10 lambs with a *swallow-fork* ————— in the right ear.

I send the “bloodgood” pear cuttings, wrapped in *wet cotton*.

I want to get off, after my wife on Wednesday morning. It will probably be the following Wednesday, before I get back.

I hope you got home safely and comfortably—and that you were not seriously inconvenienced by the trip.

Hon. Thos, Ruffin]

Alamance N. C.]

P. S. I have just received a letter from my wife at Morganton. She was again detained there, owing to the non-arrival of the stage from Asheville, She has had a very hard and disagreeable time of it. And after all she will not see Mrs. Polk. A letter came from Mrs. P. this morning, from Augusta Georgia. I expect to leave Wednesday morning.

I feel gloomy at the complexion of our affairs. The great successes we have been hearing of, are evidently an exaggeration. Grant is strongly entrenched, his left commanding the communication with the South.

My wife's letter of Friday morning says W. W. Avery would probably lose his arm. The “Conservative” of this morning says he died on Friday. A hurried and short note from my wife, of *Saturday* morning, makes no allusion to his situation. When will these horrors cease!

From C. R. King.

POST QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, 6TH DIST.,

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

GRAHAM, July 8th, 1864.

Alamance, N. C.

Yours enquiring whether or not I received tithes of the new crop to hand, in answer to which I would state that I have received orders to receive nothing until the crop has been assessed. Consequently, I must say that I am unable to accommodate you. You will have your oats shelled for the Government. None will be received in the sheaf. I am sorry to put you to trouble but can't help it.

I hope you will be relieved from all inconvenience, on the part of your horses to-morrow. I have been satisfied in my mind that you had no horse to spare. Still I have been induced to renew the notice which I am pleased to learn, you take in good part. I was forced to do this, in order to be relieved from censure. The *thing* will be amicably adjusted and settled I hope tomorrow in your favor. I can't be the judge in this matter. If I would you would have been relieved.

Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

C. R. KING

Capt. and A. Q. M.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT 11th July 1864.

I shall send the Citizen to Dr. Wilson's the last of this week. It gives me no little concern to find that I shall not be able to comply punctually with his terms, which are but just and reasonable. I know of no escape from my perplexity but to apply to your kind offices for help—and must entreat you to sell me (11) eleven Barrels of Flour (you have a Mill) and hire the hauling to Dr. Wilson. I have wheat enough (1200 Bus. or more) but am without the means of transportation. The only plan seems to be to buy in yr. neighborhood and pay whatever may be the price, *than to be in debt*. If you should prefer an *exchange* I would sell as many Barrels for you here. Of corn I have but a scant supply—having parted with *all* I could spare in small quantities according to families, to my neighbors to keep them from *actual suffering*. I have barely Bacon till hog-killing time and shall then have to rely upon my stock of Cattle for Meat for another year—having lost by the swine-pox nearly 70 hogs—and the disease not yet checked. I am thus particular to show you that I am obliged to come to you with my request. Knowing the infirmities of old age, I would spare you if I could.

While at Raleigh I wished to have a long talk with you concerning the condition of the Country and the many contingencies which a prudent forecast would counsel us to provide against—but we were both broke down. The condition of our circulating medium and the symptoms betrayed by our weak Congress must bring all who have funds to invest to a dead *stand-still*. How would you advise? . . .

To Hon. Thos. Ruffin Senr.

Graham, N. C.

From George M. Foust.

CAMP HOLMES

RALEIGH, N. Ca. July 18th 1864.

Judge Ruffin

Sir. I embrace this opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you hear from me and how I am getting along. I am still hear at camp Holmes laying in my quarters. I am quite feeble I have not been able to cook my rashens since I have bin hear. I have almost suffered death since I have bin hear and still I suffer every day it almost killes me to lay on the hard planks hear in the condition that I am in I am nearly worn out, you know as well as I do that I cant do them any good in the field but I could do rite smart good at home. God forbid that I shall have to stay hear and suffer mutch longer it is a disgrace to the Confederacy to keep men hear and cause them to have to suffer as I have had to suffer just on account of malicious and false reports. Judge Ruffin I appeal to you in the name of the Lord to try and get me away from hear if you can know that Mother is not able to attend to the Farm. Doc Geo. H. Foust sent me word that he wanted me to attend to his farm too if I could get home.

I believe if you were to come down and see Col. Mollet¹ that you could get me home or you could get a detail for me to attend to Mothers Hives and Rebacas farm. I could do a great eal more good for the Confederacy there than I can do here or in the Field, that is very evident to any person that is acquainted with me and the state of condition of affairs at home. Judge Ruffin I want you to make the attempt if you please.

Please escuse my badly ritten letter for I am so very nervous and weak that I cant hardly write, please let me hear from this soon. I send mutch love to your family.

Your affect. friend

GEO. M. FOUST.

Address

Graham, N. C.

¹Colonel Peter Mallett who was in command of the conscript camp at Raleigh.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH July 18 /64

I wrote to the Sec. of the Treasury on the 2nd inst, giving him the substance of the proceedings of the Comrs of the Sinking Fund in relation to the 4 per cent. certificates received and to be received from the N. C. R. R. Co.

I have received no answer. I have attributed the delay partly to the derangement of the mails; and partly to the supposed fact that Mr Meminger had resigned and that his successor had not been appointed or had not entered on the duties of his office. I am disposed to go to Richmond to see the Sec. in person, if it meet your approbation, presuming that your health warrant your going, which would probably be better. I think I shall go at once, presuming on your approval. I fear a decision will be delayed, greatly to our prejudice, if the matter be not urged on the Secretary.

I have written to my farm directing my wagon to go up for the ram you have kindly set apart for me. The price you name is very cheap—much less than I expected.

I have been unable to do any thing with the certificates. You shall hear from me as soon as I can ascertain what can be done.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—July 18th—1864.

I reached home on Thursday morning last, after a most fatiguing and disagreeable journey. My wife and myself were both nearly prostrated by it. We did not see Mrs. Polk. She is in Augusta, from whence she will go to Savannah, with Bishop Elliott. Genl. Polk has left a bereaved and deeply-afflicted family.

I found the lambs here, when I arrived. They are very fine, and I am much pleased with them,—on my return I found there had been plenty of rain till within 5 or 6 miles of Raleigh. Here we have not had more than half enough; and the effects of the drouth are saddening to look at. My fine clover is entirely dead—the gardens burnt up—and the Irish Potato crop very indifferent. I have not a bushel of corn in the world—and can't get it at any price.

In my trip to the country and back, I did not see, nor could I hear of any *Holden men*. I am now inclined to think, the talk about Holden's strength is all fallacious; and I do not think he will obtain a

respectable vote in the whole State. You may rely on it, Vance's majority will be overwhelming.

The news of Grant's death, from a shot by one of our scouts, is believed here to be true. Dr. Fisher, just from Petersburg, brings the news—that his arm was amputated on Thursday and that he died the next day. I fear it is too good to be true. The news from Georgia is discouraging. With the fall of Atlanta (and it looks as if that place was to be given up) we lose our invaluable foundrys, manufactories, etc. It seems we are also retreating from Washington and I fear the effect of the raid there, will be to arouse and exasperate the Yankees; and thus enable Lincoln to fill up his exausted army. Oh, that God, in his mercy, would bring us peace!

I forgot to remind you when here, about a few turnip-seed. I am ashamed to apply to you again—but if you aid me this time, I hope I may be enabled never to annoy you about turnip-seed again. If you can spare me some, please send them down to Mrs. Roulhac's at Hillsboro, and when Sally returns home she can bring them down to me. Sally will go up to Hillsboro, on Wednesday, with Mr. Josiah Collins. I wish to sow turnip-seed earlier this year—say last of July.

Hon Thos. Ruffin.

Monday evening

8 oclock

We had a fine rain this evening.

The report in regard to Grant's being killed is exploded—and later news from Petersburg give no account of it.

[Address Graham, Alamance Co., No. Ca.]

From E. Burke Haywood.

PETTIGREW HOSPITAL

RALEIGH N. C.

July 20th 1864

I have the honor to return Mrs. Ruffin and yourself thanks in behalf of myself and the sick soldiers under my charge, for your repeated manifestations of kindness towards us. I received the barrel of onions sent in fine condition. They were the best I ever saw and were very acceptable to the soldiers, as they prefer them to all other vegetables.

Dr. Cain is in good health and spirits and sends his best love.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin

Graham N C

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
RALEIGH. July 21st 1864.

On going to the Depo on Monday to start to Richmond I learned that there were such difficulties and hazards in getting through that I determined to wait. In the mean time I have learned from the Depositary here, that bonds are now ready for issue for the certificates and Mr. Harrison thinks that upon a representation of our case by the Depositary who issued the certificates, J. U. Kirkland, that he would be promptly supplied with such bonds as we may desire—and I accordingly write to him to-day, asking him to order bonds for the certificates I hold for the Sinking Fund in \$500 and \$1000 bonds. The Road Richmonds by way of Greensboro and the Piedmont road is now open.

I have recd. only the \$100,000. which had been delivered to me when you were here. I write to-day to Mr. Webb that it is desirable that all which the State is required to take be delivered to me soon, to enable me to carry out your orders.

Immediately on the announcement that Mr. Trenholm had qualified as Sec of the Treasury I wrote him on the subject, inclosing copy of my letter to Mr. Meminger of the 2nd inst.

It is possible a letter from you to Mr. Kirkland might serve to stimulate his co-operation in carrying out our wishes.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—July 22nd. 1864.

My daughter Sally has again been disappointed in her visit to Hillsboro. She was to have gone up with Mr. Jos: Collins, on Wednesday night, but on that day he was ordered to proceed directly to Richmond, to procure arms for our local defence. Sally will go to Hillsboro at an early day—but the exact time is uncertain.

I am of opinion that we all put off sowing turnip-seed too late. I think if sown now, they would be much better. If you can spare me any, please put them in a little box and send to the Graham depot to be sent to me, "*by express.*" My purpose is to get them in the ground by the first of August.

Nothing new here. I regret the removal of Genl. Johnson from the command of the army of the South West. This I fear, is the culmination of Prest. Davis' long-cherished prejudice. I fear further, that the effect will be very injurious to our cause. I have conversed with many officers in that army; and they all concur in expressing the utmost confidence in Genl. J—that the common soldiers are as much devoted to him, and have the same confidence in his judgment and

generalship, as the army of Virginia have in Genl. Lee. And what is remarkable, the people of Georgia, in the very country which has been given up to the enemy, all believe that Genl. J. has acted for the best.

I don't know how you look on our affairs—for myself, I feel very uncomfortable. I learn from persons who have been on the spot, that Petersburg is badly battered to pieces—and is almost entirely commanded by the enemy's guns. Grant's movement will till Nov. be with reference to political results. The election of Lincoln will be put at hazard, by the loss of a battle. Hence Grant will probably remain in his intrenchments (which I am told, are well nigh impregnable) and send out his raiding parties to destroy the roads, over which Genl. Lee must draw his supplies just as fast, as we repair them. An army, when once out of provisions, can't wait a week or ten days for a road to be mended, or a bridge to be rebuilt.

Again, Hood knows that Johnson was removed, because of his adherence to the Fabian policy. He may precipitate his army of inferior numbers, on the strongly fortified lines of Sherman's, and have his army cut to pieces.

We have had one of the finest rains here, I ever saw. The effect is wonderful. Everything is growing finely. Dry as it was, the corn seems to have suffered but little. We have the prospect now of a most bountiful corn crop,—but where are the hogs to make meat for another year. I have made up my mind, to have no meat, except what I raise myself. Fortunately, I have some 45 very fine shoats which I shall nurse very assiduously. I succeeded in buying 15 Barrels of corn, a few days since, at \$150 a barrel!

I hear that the canvass waxes very warm in this county. I understand the Vance men have hopes of carrying the county—whilst Holden's friends calculate on succeeding by 1000 majority. My own opinion is that Holden has been woefully misled and deluded by his friends. I think he will be beaten as badly as Johnson was two years ago. In my trip, up the country, I made it a point to enquire of every body I saw, so as to ascertain the state of public opinion. The conclusion I came to, was that Holden's vote would be exceedingly meagre one. And yet I discovered at the same time, that most persons I saw, did not support Vance with any cordiality. They would vote for him, under duress, as it were. I am more and more convinced every day, that a very decided majority of the voters of the state, prefer a third man to either of them. We ought to have run a candidate of our own. We could have elected him. And mark what I say. After Vance is elected, and is inaugurated, you will see that he will pursue such a course as will cause you to say, that it is unfortunate we did not run a candidate, representing more faithfully the interest involved in this great struggle.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT OF N. C.

July 25th 1864.

I inclose copy of letter and circular recd. yesterday from Mr. Trenholm, Sec. of the Treasury.

In my letter of the 2nd July I stated that the N. C. R. R. had paid into my office for the Comrs. of the Sinking Fund \$100,000—and soon would probably soon pay in some \$50,000 more, in certificates for 4 per cents of from \$10,000 to \$50,000 each—and that I was directed by the Comrs. to sell them for currency which the State would borrow to supply the wants of the Treasury. I then say—"The only persons wanting to buy these certificates are those wanting to use them to pay Confederate taxes, and no sale can be made on account of the large size of these certificates. The Comrs. met in this office on yesterday and directed the Pub. Treasr. to correspond with you and request you to issue bonds for said certificates in such sums as the Public Treas may deem most convenient for the purpose aforesaid or direct the Depositary who issued the same to take them in and substitute new certificates in more convenient sums for the purpose aforesaid." I further add that "The certificates could be sold, if they were for small sums and could be promptly obtained." A literal construction of the circular of the 7th June would seem to limit the sub-division to four new certificates for one old one. I have copied portions of my letter to the Secy. so that it may be clear by the Secretary's reply, that he does not give this limited construction to the Circular. I suppose Mr. Kirkland will issue new certificates in such amounts, provided the amounts are even hundreds, as we may want. I think they should be for \$1000, and less amounts.

I have not time today to send copies both to you and Mr. Kirkland. After you shall have read this and accompanying copies, please forward to Mr. Kirkland, and ask him to write me how small he will reduce these certificates—and as soon as the R.R. Co. shall pay me the rest of the certificates I will send them by express to Mr. Kirkland for exchange.

[ENCLOSURE]

Copy.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT C. S. A.

RICHMOND July 19th 1864.

Jonathan Worth Esqr

Public Treasurer

Sir:

Raleigh N. C.

Your letter of the 2nd instant asking the Department to authorize the reduction of the 4% Certificates held by the commissioners of the Sinking Fund, or the issue of small bonds in lieu of them, is received.

Enclosed I hand you herewith a copy of a "Circular to the Assistant Treasurers and Depositaries" which points out the mode in which the purpose which you seek to accomplish can be effected.

Very respectfully

Signed. G. A. TRENHOLM
Secretary of Treasury.

[ENCLOSURE]

Copy.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT C. S. A.

RICHMOND June 7. 1864.

Circular to the Assistant Treasurer and Depositaries.

Owing to the pressure of funding in 4% certificates prior to 2d of April under the Act of the 17 Feby 1864, it is deemed necessary to adopt a rule of issuing only one certificate in the name of each person funding.

It has subsequently been ascertained that in some cases a party holding only one certificate, has taxes to pay in more than one district or State, and that the single certificate which he holds cannot afford him the facilities for paying his Taxes which he is entitled to. In order that the proper rights of such parties shall be extended to them, the Asst Treas and Depositaries are authorised, when such cases shall be presented, to take in and cancel such old certificates and issue in lieu thereof 2, 3, or 4 certificates (as may be needful) of same date name and same number of the returned certificates, with the letters A. B. C. D. following the number on the new certificates respectively and for amount agreeing in the aggregate with amount of the returned certificate.

Signed C. G. MEMMINGER
Secretary Treasury.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—July 27th 1864.

One of the ewes I purchased of Dr. Holt dropped a very fine lamb this morning—and three of those you gave me promise to do the same in the course of a few days. What ought I do with them? I have always heard that such lambs are of no account and rarely live through the winter. If the lambs remain with them, will it not prevent their having lambs next winter? When is the coupling season with the South Downs?

Smith tells me he did not butcher any of the lambs he got from you—but swapped them for ordinary lambs; and has thus scattered them through the country. No news here from the army, other than you see in the newspapers.

At the election here to-day, at the Hospitals Vance received nearly all the votes. Holden has been terribly misled and deluded by his friends. Even on yesterday Harrison, his brother in law told me that Holden would be elected by a very large majority. I think Vance will beat him, further than he did Johnson. Not that the people wish to vote for Vance. It is a "bitter pill", with thousands.

The crops are improving very much. I rode over mine this evening. Considering the poorness of the land, it is very good.

Hon: Thos. Ruffin

Alamance, N. C.

From H. M. Stokes.

LAUREL SPRINGS ALLEGHANY CY. July 30th 1864

My venerable and much honor'd friend,

This communication is the first, Tho' perhaps it may not be the last application for advice, on a matter that lies very near me; and greatly concerns the peace and quiet of the few days or years, that may remain in store for me, on this side of the grave.

The reminiscences of former days, having a pleasing effect upon the memory of one who owes so much to your kindness and solicitude; so often exhibited to him, whilst admitted to your companionship, at an early period of life, in your judicial journeyings in the mountainous regions of Western Carolina. Among the most pleasing and grateful of those recollections is the consciousness of having fix'd the choice of my honour'd and lamented father (then a member of the General Assembly of North Carolina) upon yourself for the Office of Judge of the Supreme Court, is not the least, Inasmuch as it was in opposition to the claims of Judge H. Seawell, whose aspirations, he was disposed to favor.

So far from regretting the humble, and unsolicited part I then took in your elevation to the bench of the Supreme Court, I have much reason to rejoice at the selection then made; and at the dignity and ability, with which you discharged the high functions, and responsible duties of *Chief Justice* of the Supreme Court.

Let me beg you, not to construe the foregoing remarks, as the offence of Flattery; in as much as the unanimous concurrence of the General Assembly of my native State, at a subsequent period, sanctioned the correctness of my judgment, I had formed upon the occasion heretofore refer'd to. I am now verging upon three score and ten; the *Biblical*

limitation of human life, Poor, pennyles, and destitute of the means of procuring even the common necessities of life, except by the humble, but honorable avocation of an itinerant *pedagogue*; at all times precarious and ill requited; and at this critical period, in the history of our beloved Confederacy scarcely patronized, and wholly unprofitable, owing to the deranged State of the currency and the general depression in the monetary system as well as all other employments. My mother died on the 31st of October, 1860, After having executed a paper writing purporting to be her last will and Testament, with M. S. Stokes as sole Executor of said will. Said Stokes, qualified at the January term of Wilkes County Court '61; But took no action whatever upon said Will for the 17 or 18 months that he lived after qualifying as Executor as aforesaid; I believe the will to have been fraudulently obtained to defeat if possible my claim to the lands in possession of my mother at her death, as well as a just claim for money advanced and work and labor done, for my mother in her life time. I do not believe she was capable of making a will, from feebleness of body and imbecility of mind and being totally different from one executed about six years before when her health of body and capacity of mind were comparatively speaking good. You recollect, perhaps, the long litigation, attending the recovery of lands in Wilkes known as the Moravian lands. These lands had been purchased by my grandfather Hugh Montgomery of the Unitas Fratrum at an early period of the revolutionary war; And convey'd the same by Deed of Gift (The lower tract, Bent place, and Brown place) to his two daughters Rebecca and Rachel, then infants, bearing date 13th December 1779. In which year he died.

The Deed does not, convey the lands, to them and their Heirs, or children or issue, on any terms that would imply an hereditary title in them. And this circumstance seems to have attracted the notice of some member of the bar; who made a Starlike figure at the end of the appropriate paragraph, thus * in body of the Deed. Which mark I believe was ascribed to yourself then quite a young member of the bar. In the will of my grandfather confirming the Deeds of gift, and Executed three days after the Deed, He makes an Executory Devise to Hugh Montgomery the Younger of a tract of land in the State of Virginia with a special limitation to the 1st 2nd 3d 4th 5th 6th and 7th Son of said Hugh Montgomery the younger. In the deed to Rebecca and Rachel Montgomery, and in his will he requires his Executors and the trustee To observe the limitation of said Deeds; and on their respectively arriving at the age of twenty one years or marriage to make an equal, and just Distribution of the lands and property Secured to them by said Deeds of gift. If they do not arrive at 21 years or get married, then the lands and personal Estate of said Rebecca and Rachel, equally between Hugh Montgomery the younger and Jane Montgomery children by another ventor, and their Heirs or assigns etc.

By the will of my grandfather Executed 3 days after the Execution of the Deed, the Executors are required To observe particularly the limitations of the Deed; and are empowered To Execute Deeds of Conveyance fee simple or otherwise, in regard to his residuary Estate but to no other. I am not aware of any alteration in the laws of Descent, (of 13th Ed 1st and 27th of Henry the 8th) by the Legislature of North Carolina, earlier than the Spring and Fall Sessions of 1784. Giving to all the sons an equal share of the inheritance.

I would not trouble you at your age, with any part of my misfortunes, or distresses were it not that the members of the bar, to whom I have applied give me no encouragement to claim, the lands under the law of primogeniture; entertaining the opinion that subsequent laws, have forever barr'd all such claims, and so recognized by our Supreme and other courts. It may be so. I have not read any law, for thirty or forty years and have had but little to do in courts of justice. But I am satisfied that the pretended will of my mother was conceived in fraud, to oppress the only member of the family that ever placed a penny in the family urn; and preserved the property both real and personal from being dissipated by extravagance and folly; for many years that I acted as agent and manager of the Family Estate at the special request of both my parents. I have never desired to enrich myself at the expense of my brothers and sisters; but wished at least to share equally with them a common patrimony, and to avoid at least the imputation, of casting a reflection upon my mothers memory of acting dishonestly; by making no provision, for monies advanced and Services rendered, in the discharge of a filial duty, incumbent upon all who reverence, the authors of their being; and shew a sacred regard for the laws of God and man. I close my letter, with an earnest wish, that I may receive, your kindly advice and consolation, in a matter which so materially affects the peace and quiet of my old age; and you may be assured that it will be gratefully received, and followed by one, who has ever looked up to you as a father and friend; And whose kindness and courtesy, in former days, will never be obliterated from the memory of your Sincere and admiring

Friend and Hum. Servt.

H. M. STOKES.

Honble. Thomas Ruffin
Allemanee N. C.

From John W. Brodnax.

PETERSBURG
Aug. 4th, '64.

Your oft repeated kindnesses makes me not hesitate to ask of you to add another to the long list and I do so the more readily as I know it

is always a pleasure for you to attend to any business matters for your children who are in the army as well as out of it. My request this time is to provide Nannie with money enough to start to school again the first of the session. I have written to my overseer to sell enough wheat, nearly a month ago to provide me with as much money as Cousin Alice desired—he has had ample time and nothing to prevent that I can either see or know of but today I received a letter from him which he says it was impossible for him to get wheat enough to Danville to raise the money required. I have just written him a letter and I am slightly of opinion that when he finishes it he will have come to the conclusion it is a very easy matter to have done it and that there was no impossibility about it. But does not help the matter as far as Nanny's getting the money is concerned—although I may feel a little better myself. Dr. Brodnax who is sick with typhoid fever, fortunately a very mild case, expects to go home in a few days and I will make the arrangements about the amount cousin Alice wanted and send over to you, I hope it may not put you to much inconvenience, as I shall return the money in this month if the Dr. gets off as he now expects to do. I could send you check for it now but am afraid to trust the mails. To day is the election in the state and we are all looking with great anxiety to hear the result, if Vance can beat Holden in the State as he has in the army I think he will never be heard of again at least he will not give us any more trouble. I hear Holden says the vote was gagged in the army by the officers now the truth of the matter is just the reverse for nearly half of the votes that he obtained was given by men who thought they could spite their officers in that way and not because they admired *Mr. Holden*, so that he is really indebted to the officers for half of the vote he received in the army it was small enough it is said that not a single volunteer in the army gave him a vote they were altogether conscripts or the "new issue" as the old soldiers calls them. We all hope for the best and expect Vance to be elected by 40,000 votes every person whom I have seen from the state, says that Vance will carry the state by 25,000 outside of the army vote, that has given him some 20,000 majority If he should beat him that badly it will will be almost equal to a victory over Grant or Sherman. Since the fight of Saturday everything has settled down to the usual shelling and Picket firing. It will take Grant many a day to get into Petersburg at his Present rate of speed. The mining operations of Saturday did not pay—they have several other mines but Gen. Beauregard is hunting for them and expects to give them the next blast first—from Hoods army every thing wears, as far as I can see from the papers and hear from private source a more cheerful aspect. I hope he may be able to whip Sherman if he does and badly I shall look for propositions of peace very soon. I regreted to hear of your attack in Rockingham but am rejoiced to hear of your recovery again. I should like to take a little trip out to see you very much but dont like to leave here at present. . . .

From James W. Lea

HEAD QUARTERS MOORE CO. N. C.
CAMP NEAR HOWARDS MILL,
Aug. 9th, 1864.

Dear Sir:

I hastily pen you a few lines by Esquire Albright, to ask your co-operation in assisting us to get back to our county for the express purpose of having a short time to save what we have made and seeding our wheat etc. We can accomplish as much in a week or so here as we can in sometime to come and we are all perfectly willing, after we attend to our farming interest a short time to return here and here stay until the last Deserter is swept from this country. You are aware Judge of the great importance of this movement and I trust you will use your efforts with the Chief Executive of this State in our behalf.

From David A. Barnes.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
RALEIGH, August 15th 1864.

His, Excellency Governor Vance has received your letter written in behalf of Mr. Albright. He directs me to say in reply that upon Mr. Albright's presenting a duly certified copy of the record of his appointment and qualification as Coroner he will claim his exemption as a necessary State officer, which claim he has no doubt will be respected by the Confederate Authorities

To E. J. Hale and Sons.¹

ALAMANCE Augt. 16th, 1864.

Gentlemen:

An illness of three months prevented any attention to business, and about a month past I made a trip to Rockingham County and was there confined again for a fortnight. I have just been able to get back and on my return found your account here. I thank you for sending that

¹From The E. J. Hale Papers Collections of the North Carolina Historical Commission.

instead of stopping The Observer as, I think, Editors generally to do. I lose no time, now, in remitting my subscription; and, as the Banks hereabouts will take no deposits, I have to send a note in the place of a check. You will, accordingly, find herein \$20; for which you will be pleased to give me credit on account. I cannot close this note (tho' I am hardly able to write) without acknowledging full remuneration for my subscription in my own enjoyment of The Observer and yet more in the very great service which, [torn] it has done to [torn] a Country in contributing to the happy results of our late election. Of course, I do not hope that Mr. Holden's long and hitherto successful career of mischief has been or can be arrested by anybody but himself. But I do trust, that you have placed him in a position from which he will never be able to trouble us again with the protrusions of his personal ambition, and I would fain also hope, that he will be somewhat restrained from the arrogant assumption of "killing and making alive" every citizen, whose talents, virtues, and influence he found or might suppose in the way of his own preferment.

One thing more: For heaven's sake strive your utmost to repress *party*, in either the Executive or Legislative departments and in the great body of the People 'till this struggle shall be over. Up to the establishment of our Independence keep us together, as one People, After that men of ambition may vault to their hearts content for me!

Your friend and svt.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

From Theophilus H. Holmes.

RALEIGH Aug. 16th/64.

My Dear Sir

Col. S. B. Northrup Commissary Genl. of the Army is very anxious to procure a "thorough bred filly" he was informed by a friend in Richd. that yr. Stock is of the purest blood in the country, and of the particular strains that he most admires, if he had not been imposed upon will you do the favor to inform me if you can gratify him with a description of the Animal, price etc. Will you not permit me in common with my countrymen to offer my sincere congratulations on yr. restoration to health, long may you live to cheer us on in the paths of virtue and patriotism, to you alone of North Carolina's great men can all men point and say: Sans peur et sans reproach. With the most profound respect and veneration

I am very faithfully

TH. H. HOLMES.

The Hon. Th. Ruffin
Alamance Cty.

From E. J. Hale and Sons.

FAYETTEVILLE, Aug. 22. 1864

We had heard with great regret of your illness, but hoped that you had recovered more fully than we now apprehend from your letter of the 16th. We trust, however, that you will regain the vigorous health which even in old age is generally enjoyed by those who have always been of temperate habits.

We acknowledge the compliment you pay to the Observer most gratefully. It would be affectation to disclaim it; for we feel that we have been of some service to the State in its late sore trial, and it gives us more pleasure so to feel, and to know that so many others of the good and great of the State concur with you in that estimate of our services.

We enclose receipt.

From Thomas Ruffin Jr.

ABINGDON VA. August 23d 1864.

Having heard of the rapid improvement in your health, I have intended, for the last several days, to write you, that I might offer you my congratulations and express the hope that your restoration may be perfect.

Indeed, do I hope, my dear father, that you may be long spared to your family and friends to bless them with your good counsel, and the same good example that you have ever set before them!

I am induced, however, to write you just now, by reason of a letter which I had from *Mary*, on yesterday, in which she invokes my aid in a matter that she seems to have much at heart.

It is upon the subject of our getting a clergyman of our church as a pastor at Graham! She has been very anxious to have this accomplished for a long time, and each day that adds to the age and intelligence of her children, adds to her anxiety.

She writes me that there is a Mr. Breton, who lately had a charge in the city of Richmond, but had to resign in consequence of a failure in his health; that he is now in Charlotte N. Ca, and is willing to take charge of a small congregation such as ours, unless we can make some other and more permanent arrangement.

Apart from my wife's earnest wishes in the premises, I have a very sincere wish myself, that we should have a pastor there! I know of no place, where more good could be accomplished, by a diligent earnest man, than at that point, and certainly none where there is a greater need of such offices: I particularly desire it too for the benefit of my own

family. I cannot bear the thought of their being raised without the advantages of attending church and Sunday School. They will soon be large enough to take benefit from such services and I shall feel myself derelict if I omit to do anything, that lies in my power, to furnish them with the opportunity.

I do not know Mr. Breton; but Mary writes me that Mr. Edmund Ruffin is acquainted with him and that he gives him the character of a gentleman, and says that we may congratulate ourselves upon the prospect of obtaining his services.

My dear father, please aid us in this matter! and do not let us lose so favourable an opportunity:

In arranging pecuniary matters with him, should it proceed that far, I authorize you to subscribe for Mary whatever sum you think to be right.

We are still commanded by Brig. Genl. Morgan, who has been entirely passive since his raid into Kentucky in the months of May and June and from all indications expects to remain so far for some time to come.

He is nothing in short but a Robber—wholly unfit for his present position—or any other of honour or responsibility.

It is said that he came back from Kentucky loaded with money—specie and green-backs—and that to attain his plunder he neglected his command so that they [were] sorely beaten by the enemy and driven out of the State: If this were mere idle rumour I should omit to mention it; but I have it from officers high in position, who seem to be gentlemen, and who say that it is true; and very certain it is that the entire command came back in a state of entire demoralization and disintegration.

It was sad to see his men returning—many of them without arms of any sort—having made way with them that they might the more easily take care of their stolen property: They came back in small squads without any order, and no one to enforce order. Some of them brought bags of gold and silver, and scarcely a man but had about his person some articles of ladies jewelry: One man had three gold watches—another diamond rings to a very large value: They speak of their spoiliations as if they were a matter of course; and certainly so openly that it must have come to the knowledge of the commanding General, and if he had the disposition there could be no difficulty in bringing them to justice.

We have had the most remarkable seasons that I have ever known: There has not been three days together without rain since the first day of June:

The consequence is that the corn is as fine as it is possible for it to be, and the hay crop would have past all computation, but for the Grass-hoppers:

These exist here in countless numbers. I am sure that I have seen a million at a view—and they seriously injured the grass, and as they have lately attacked the corn, it is feared that they will consume all the fodder.

Mary writes to me that you had lately expressed an intention to write to me soon. Please, my father, do so. I should be greatly delighted to hear from you—you cannot tell how much pleased I should be, nor how much good it would do me. That I may have some assurance that you will write, please ask Mama to urge you to it, and to remind you of it from day to day until you do write to oblige her if not me.

To my good old Mother give my very best love, and tell her that she does not know how dear she is to me!

Indeed, my father, what reason have I to love and reverence both of my parents—who have been so good to me—and to whom, I fear, that I shall never be able to make any other return for their kindness, than affection and veneration;—

Please kiss her for me as often as she will let you!

I hope you will give my love to all at home, and say to Sister Alice and Patty that I hope they will lend me their aid in enforcing my request about the clergyman.

Please forgive me my importunity on that subject, if you knew my anxiety in the matter you would do so:

Will you pardon me too, my father if I again call to your attention the subject of your making your will. I implore you not again to expose my mother to the danger of being unprovided for, that she has lately passed through. I trust that it may be very long before that sad day shall occur, when anything of the sort may be needed, but on her account I should deplore its being unprovided for. Do not, my father, misunderstand my motives in thus addressing you! The kindness with which you heard me before on the same subject emboldens me to think you will not.

[Address: Graham
Alamance County
N. Carolina.]

From John W. Brodnax.

PETERSBURG

Aug 23d 64.

* * * * *

I knew very well Sir that you would furnish Nanny with the money if you only knew about it and as I wrote to Cousin Alice Dr. Brodnax

will either carry it by with him or send it to you. I expect it will be the latter course now as the Weldon Rail Road has been again cut. Whilst Gen Lee with most of his force was over the River combatting there with Grant they slipped away one night and came over here and attacked our right. Gen. Beauregard with the forces left [of] his own and a few Brigades of Gen Lee's Army—for we are here two distinct armies—planned an attack on them, Which whilst it resulted favorably to us was not entirely successful owing to the troops not coming up as they were expected, in truth it was a mixed up business being in a thick woods. Regiments and part of Regiments got off from their commands and fought the Yankees whenever they came up with them some times these stragling parties would be taken prisoners soon to be released by other parties and loss on that day was very small. We took upwards of 33000 prisoners among them a Gen. and a great many officers—that night and the next day saturday Gen. Lee sent a part of his forces back and he reached here saturday night about 12 oclock himself. Gen. Beauregard had laid his plans which were to commence the next morning at 5 oclock a charge was ordered the outer works were carried by which is meant the picket line in rifle pits except they are continuous line of intrenchments and about 400 prisoners taken—here we lost nothing our men here became so excited that some of them could not be held as the Yankees ran off and put out after them as far as I can gather it was not intended to charge here any farther at that time but our Brigade and Cooks which charged with ours are confident that they could have carried the breast works with ease if they had been supported on each flank. I hear the reason assigned by the officers in command of those troops say they were ordered to go no further. Leut. Dinkins Ajt. of the 45th now acting Ajt. of the Brigade it is said behaved with great galantry when the men were ordered to lie down he waived his sword and beg the other troops to come that the enemy were leaving he says that they were running from the breast-works and ordered the guns to be limbered to the rear but as those two Brigades would have been flanked and taken prisoners they had to retire. We did retire. Our loss was comparatively slight for a charge not over 100 wounded and missing and killed so has ended the attempt at present to remove the Yanks from the Rail Road they are said to be very strongly entrenched on the road. I will give you above on the head of this page a form as I understand the present form of their works to keep from being flanked for whatever the Northern papers may say to the contrary this army here has no idea of fighting our troops on fair grounds and are dreadfully afraid of a flank movement. We have forces now behind him and are hauling provisions from Stoney Creek, some twenty miles off as we did before when they had the Rail Road there they left of their own accord and I dont see now that they have gained any particular advantage by this move farther than putting us to the trouble of hauling our produce some 25 miles dry weather would again cause them to move as they would be

without water in that section. It will be heralded as a victory at the North and I have no doubt is intended to operate on the Democratic Convention, but if Forrest is in Memphis as reported this morning and Wheeler has destroyed the Tunnel at Tunnel Hill it will rather be on the other foot, particularly as Early has again driven the Yankee army across the Potomac. We are all in good spirits here the Danville and South Side Road will keep us from starving I hope. Early as he has been reinforced by certainly two divisions probably three divisions may be able to give the Dutch a good scare. I wish he could get hold of Old Abe and Seward if that could happen I think we would have peace in 30 days. I suppose you have seen Valandigham speeches he is as much down on the war Democrats as he is on the Republicans it is an out and out peace speech and is in for a peace candidate to be nominated at Chicago next Tuesday. I do hope they may be induced to turn from the error of their ways and let us alone it is all we want to be seporate and distinct from them for all time to come.

You asked in your letter about the springing of our mine it was not expected to reach the Yankee works but was only intended to blow up a mine of theirs, it was successfull I learn our men were all notified that the mine would be sprung, to be ready to fire on the Yanks and their curiosity got the better of their prudence sure enough it did and as soon as the mine went off up went their heads above the breast-works and away went Confederate Bullets which caused their prudence to predominate again. We are boring artesian wells in front of our works to find out where their mines are. The implement is a very simple one made by the Blacksmiths in the Brigades, attached to a pole some ten feet in length and when the well is sunken deep enough that the pole cant be raised conveniently a rope is attached and the hole is then bored to the depth that they desire it three or four of these holes can be bored in one night by one auger say 20 or 25 feet and there are some six or eight in each Brigade some of the deserters still say that there are several mines to be sprung by the Yankeys but there is no telling anything about it. I hear that there are a good many deserters coming in under the order from the Ajt-Gen that they will be sent home without molestation, one day last week 40 were received at Richmond. I expect before this you have tired of trying to read this scrawl but the paper and pens are now so bad, that independent of my *elegant fist* would make it I fear rather illegible but Cousin Alice can make it out I expect.

I suppose you have heard of the death of old man Oliver he did not live long after you left Rockingham. I feel that I have lost an old friend the last time I saw him I thought he looked better than I had seen him for years—his loss will be irreparable to his master as he carried all his keys and was Gen. Superintendent of his matters about the stables and cornerib etc. . . .

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH—Aug. 26—1864.

I am pleased to hear that you have again reached home after having suffered from another distressing attack of illness.

I have heretofore written you twice, and have not heard from you in reply to either letter. But I presume my letters reached Alamance in your absence; and after hearing of your bad condition of health, I neither expected or desired, that you should fatigue yourself with writing—as there was nothing material in my letters.

I hope you are improving, and that you will soon be well again.

We are all well. My own health has improved latterly. Sally is still at Hillsboro. When she last wrote she had not definitely decided whether she would pay Mrs. Ruffin a visit or not. My wheat crop was very indifferent—so much so, that I have made up my mind, to change my seed wheat, in part, at seeding-time this fall. I wish to sow about half of my crop, with the “purple-straw” wheat. I hear very favorable accounts of it, as to hardiness. Can you spare me some 10 or 12 bushels of that variety?—if so, I hope you will retain it for me.

Our corn crops are *very* promising. I presume they never were better. My crop, is very fine, for poor land.

Hon. George Davis is now at my house—having reached here last night, direct from Richmond. He has greatly relieved my fears and apprehensions, in regard to the state of affairs, around Richmond and Petersburg. He says no uneasiness is felt about the result—no fears entertained, that Grant can either take Petersburg or Richmond; or that he can starve our army. I had begun to feel very badly, in regard to the state of affairs thereabouts.

When will you be down here again? I hope you will soon be well enough to come down. When you do come, advise me a day or two beforehand:

Hon: Thos. Ruffin]
Alamance N. C.]

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH. Aug. 31/64.

Having heard nothing from Mr. Kirkland and fearing that the price of the 4 per cents will depreciate soon, I have sold the certificates in the shape in which I recd. them, closing out today \$56,066⁶⁷ for \$55,506—the previous sales were at 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ s rate. I could have done better with

them if I could have got them promptly reduced in size in conformity with the instructions of the Sec. of the Treasury.

I have recd. from the R. and G. R. R. Co. since you were here some \$33,000 in 4 per cents, which was in one certificate. I sold this at 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ ds State bonds, as of the date of the sales will issue the amt. to the Comrs. of the Sinking Fund.

Under *all* the circumstances, I deem it a successful transaction and hope my action will meet your approbation.

I learn from the Prest of the N. C. R.R. that another large amt. at some day not far distant will be paid to me. Some of which I suppose will be in these large certificates. It is to be hoped that Mr. Kirkland will be prepared to issue smaller ones for them soon after they shall be delivered to me: but as he does not answer my letter as I requested him to do, I am unable to account for his omission to reduce the size of the others. He may be awaiting more specific instructions from the Sec. of the Treasury.

In reply to a late letter which I wrote Mr. Trenholm in relation to supplying me with new issue for the taxes now being recd. nearly all of which is old issue; and in relation to other matters of grave importance, I have recd. a highly satisfactory reply. It has tended to confirm prepossessing impressions in his favor which I had previously entertained.

Hoping that your health is improving I am

Very truly

JONATHAN WORTH
Pub. Tr.

[Address:

Graham, N. C.]

From Thomas Webb.

OFFICE NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY
COMPANY SHOPS 31st August 1864.

I send you a copy of a letter I have this day written to the Public Treasurer which will explain itself.

[ENCLOSURE]

(Copy.)

Jonathan Worth Esq

Pub. Treas. Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir.

On the 15th inst. at Richmond I receipted the Quarter Master for the amount due us for audited accounts up to the 1st of June—Amount—

ing to \$619,542.66 He did not then have the money to pay me, but expected to have it to his credit in the Treasury immediately. He gave me certificates to the effect that he held the accounts receipted, but that they were not paid. I left these certificates with the So. Ex. Co. for collection—part were to be paid in money, the balance in call certificates. On yesterday I recd by Express from Richmond in money \$100,379.88 with a promise of the call certificates in a few days payable at Richmond for \$250,000 more. The certificate pr our May a/c from Q. M. am't \$268,162.78 will be settled as soon as he gets the money.

With the amount recd in money, we can pay off the 15 per ct. dividend due to Stockholders. Are you willing that it should be appropriated in that way. I will pay over to you the \$250,000 Call certificates as soon as they are received and the balance of the Dividend \$200,000 due the State as soon as May a/c is settled, which I hope will be in a few days. I have sent it on for collection, written to the Quarter Master, begging that it be paid, and a long letter to Secretary Trenholm upon the subject. If you do not agree to this proposition, I will have to withhold from the Stockholders their dividend until you and I can agree upon terms. I am completely at the mercy of the Government. But if begging will do any good I will soon be able to pay off the State as well as the Stockholders.

I have sent Judge Ruffin a copy of this letter and asked him to write you.

Very Respectfully

THOMAS WEBB
Pres't.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

From H. M. Rich.¹

PETERSBURG, VA.
Sept. 7th/64.

Judge Ruffin

Sir I have the honor to drop you a note this morning in order that you may hear from me. I am in fine health and spirit our little company is doing well what few their is of us. Our company numbered one hundred men rank and file when we left our homes and entered the survice and now their is only thirteen of the old members with the Company at the peasant they have been killed and died and discharged all but this little squad and we stand here ready to meet our enemies at anny time they may Come. I hav fought through six battles since

¹Henry M. Rich, of Alamance, a regimental musician.

the fifth of last may and stand redy to try another one at any time. Our rashings is very short, and we hav to sufer some time our rashings is very short now a little shorter than common I would be very thankful if you would send me a small Box of provisions by some good friend that is coming to the army, as I hav nothing more to say I will close.

Very Respectfully yours,

H. M. RICH.

Alamance Regulator

Co. E. 13th Regt. N. C. Troops.

*From Edward J. Hardin.*¹

Conscript Office,

RALEIGH, N. C. Sepr. 19 1864.

Maj. Mallett desires me to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 17th Inst. asking that additional time be allowed J. R. Garrett of Alamance Co. to prepare for entering the military service, and to say in reply that his sense of duty will not permit him to establish such a precedent. It would afford the Commandant much pleasure to oblige you but as the facts are stated in your letter, the length of time which has elapsed since this party filed his application has been ample to enable him to make full preparation for the field.

The necessity for more men in the field is most urgent and is being constantly impressed upon this office by the Departments.

Hon. Thos, Ruffin

Ghaham.

From Richard C. Gatlin.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

RALEIGH, Sept. 19th, 1864.

The Governor has received your letter of the 17th inst and sent it to this office for reply. Mail Contractors are members of the H. G. and subject to all duty as such. The State claims the services of all who are exempted by law from service in the Confederate Army.

¹Edward J. Hardin was a second lieutenant and adjutant at Camp Holmes.

From William H. Oliver.

GRAHAM Sept. 23/64.

I have a small lot (136 pounds) of Blue Stone belonging to the state to be distributed among the Farmers of this and adjoining counties. I can let you have some if you wish it.

From Kenneth Rayner.

RALEIGH, Sept 29th, 1864.

I wrote you some time ago, enquiring of you, if you could let me have about 20 Bushels of the *purple-straw* wheat, for seed. Not having heard from you, in reply, I now renew the enquiry. I am anxious to try some other variety. My early white wheat has, I think, degenerated, both in quality and in earliness of maturity. Having used up of my wheat (I fed it to my negroes) in the expectation of getting some wheat of another variety, I shall be in an awkward fix if I do not get seed-wheat.

I am now busy, making molasses. I find that there is a great deal of exaggeration in regard to the yield per acre. I don't think my best cane will yield more than 70 to 75 gallons to the acre. And let me warn you as to one thing. Most persons that use lime as a clarifier, use too much. That is the main cause of its dark color, and slightly bitter taste. I think a pint of clear lime-water sufficient for 30 gallons of juice.

Sally reached home on Monday last, very well, and decidedly improved, as we think. She talks fondly of her pleasant visit to your family.

My own health has improved though I am still far from being as well as I would wish.

I am so *sick at heart*, in regard to our military prospects, that I hardly know what to say on that score, or what to think. I decided the consequences when I heard of the appointment of Hood to command the army of Tennessee. He had never afforded any evidences of his fitness to command a large army. A good fighter, to be sure, but so is D. H. Hill. And with our military reverses, our financial and pecuniary difficulties seem to intensify. Prices of every thing tend upward and upward. It looks like the settled conviction of the public view, that our currency is worthless. Just think of it—leather selling at \$25 a pound—lard at \$7 a pound, and so on and so on. I believe, if we have another serious reverse to our army, that Confederate money will cease "*to go*" at all, and we shall come to a state of *barter*. I know you are more hopeful than I am; and it is fortunate for you

that you are so; for I assure you these things are prostrating and crushing me, day by day. I have more *faith and hope* in Forest, than in all other Generals together, except Lee. I regard Forest as a great man, a very great man. He has never yet made a failure. He makes no botch of his work—but does it effectually. I do hope he is yet to work out our deliverance, so far as the trans-montane country is concerned. If he had been entrusted with this duty, which favoritism has assigned to Wheeler, Sherman would have been in limbo, before this. Wheeler is a man of the “*fuss and feathers*” type, elevated to a factitious importance by Bragg.

When are you coming down to Raleigh? I should be very much pleased to see you, and talk over many things with you.

* * * * *

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Alamance N. C.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO Friday, Sep. 30th, 64.

Our little boy Bennehan is very anxious to see you and his friends and his little horse Button. And what is still more to his advantage he has his Mothers *entire consent* to his plans—and I yield with some reluctance—as I fear it will keep me from my usual sound sleep until I *see* him back here. The plan is for him to go up by the Cars to Graham—to quarter with his Aunt Mary to night—to walk down early in the morning to your House and if his little Horse is well enough and the *weather* is fair that he shall start for Hillsboro by 1 or 2 o'clock, and be here by 6 o'clock. But all to be under your direction, as to weather and the use of the horse. If the Horse be not in a condition to be brought Home then Bennehan must return as he goes by the Cars. I must say this is his Mothers and his own plan, and I shall not be easy until I see him again. He has the cash to pay his way both ways.

We are all pretty well. My Sister was never more benefited by a trip to the Virginia Springs than she has been by a trip to Hillsboro. But for her visit I should have visited you before this.

Molasses Mills make our little town a noisy place as we have several in hearing.

We have no local news and today no newspapers from any quarter save the State Journal—by that you will see that Forest is on his war path toward Nashville and Chattanooga, and will destroy beyond a doubt Shermans Connexions. We all are pretty confident that Early will come out O. K. in the Valley. It is said here that Longstreet has gone to his aid with a large force. Do tender to one and to all our best greetings.

From George Patterson.¹

Box 628 CHIMBORAZO HOSPITAL
RICHMOND VA.

October 4th, 1864.

I have been too long in writing to you I know, but one thing or another has prevented me. I have determined to wait no longer and so I write now not only to assure you of my respect and regard, but also to say how thankful I am to God for His goodness to you and to us all—for restoring you to some degree of your former health. God grant that you may be longer spared to your family and to His Church. As soon as I heard of your illness, I remembered you daily in my prayers and on a certain Sunday, I said a prayer for you in the Publick Service of the Regt. Thus you will see, my dear Judge, that you have not been forgotten by me—to whom you have shown so many kindnesses.

Do remember me most kindly and affectionately to Mrs. Ruffin, and to your Sons and daughters. I am here trying to recover my strength, and also wishing to do some good thing for our brave tho' wounded soldiers. Pray for us all. My heart and soul is all taken up with the Ch. and with our Country. If we are only faithful, we shall have *peace*, and rest everlasting hereafter.

From Richard B. Baker.

CONSCRIPT OFFICE,
RALEIGH, N. C., Oct 7th, 1864.

I will be obliged if you will write me what you know of George W. Foust of Alamance. I am unable to find any disease in his case, neither swelling or contraction as is usual in Rheumatism and am unwilling to assign him to the field after hearing that you say that he is positively diseased—by answering this communication you will greatly oblige one who has ever been taught to respct. your opinion.

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Graham N. C.

¹Rev. George Patterson (Papathakes) was a native of Boston, the son of a Greek, who had come to North Carolina as chaplain on the plantation of Josiah Collins at Lake Scuppernong. He was chaplain of the Third North Carolina. After the war he was rector of St. John's Episcopal church in Wilmington, leaving there to go to Memphis where he died in 1901.

From R. M. Abbott.

DANRIVER ROCKINGHAM Co. Oct. 7th 1864.

Mr. Ruffin I start Jerry down today to your house with 52 pounds of spun yarn to Weave Janes for the negroes coats and pants I think that is enough to fill 100 yards you will pleas to send me Bunch cotton enough to finish the cloth for the wimmen and children I think wee lack 3 or 4 Bunches I am allso needing some raw cotton I havent enough to make a pare of lines I send Bags to hold 20 or 25 bushels of seed wheat I shall begin to sow as soon as he returns I send all the Butter Wee have got I am sorry to have to tell you I havent a 100 pounds of Bacon to save life and I havent Ben giveing the negroes any But once a day for a long time or I would not of had a pound before now you sed I did not mention my hogs when I wrote I did not think of it tho at that time my hogs was doing very well But about the middle of september wee had a spell of Hog colry in this section that very nigh kild out the race I lost 18 of the Best kiling hogs I had and strange to say I never lost an old one not a yong pig some of my neighbors lost all they had. it seems to me that we have more providential calamertys in those days of truble that we ever had before. I sometimes think that wee are giving up to destruction as the children of Isreal ware in the Wilderness I have paid Dr. Brodnax for his corn some time ago and I have allso got to pay the government now they will not take corn for wheat and I shall hardly have enough left for seed. Major Bethel has paid me six thounsand dollars But he has not taken any of the tobacco away yet he Beged me out of a barn to let it remain here as he could not work it and he did not want it on the Rail Rode he will pay the Balance any time. I have settled our taxes out of it the Balance you can get any time I am on trade for that solelether you instructed me to get for you and if I get it as I expect to do in a few days that will take at least 16 hundred dollars for I am shure that I shall not succeed in geting any for less than 16 dollars per pound. I would have ben glad to of sent the lether to you but I could not put of sending the yarn down any longer and I will just say that you may send up for it with saifty within 10 days. You must let me no whether you wish me to pay my self out of this money or not. I shall finish makeing syrup in 2 days I have made 200 gallons I am sorry I fed so much of the cain to my hogs I saved 30 staks of as good Blads as I ever saw I am in hops I shall make corn enough to furnish you what you may lack.

I send you your points and land slids thay charge me 3 dollars a pice if you have any pleas send me a little plantation Iron and send up henry to do my work the 1 of November I dont want him earlyer than that time.

tell Mrs Ruffin to send up her Butter Bucket by the Wagon if you will get the cloth dun By the time I want Henry hee can cum up then I have written all I can think of at present your friend and humble servant

R. M. ABBOTT.

From Weldon N. Edwards.

POPLAR MOUNT, 9th Octr. 1864.

I have resolved again and again to write you, but the will may command, and too often finds the indolence of old age invincible. It is not however, too late to thank you, as I sincerely do for your more than kind letter touching the arrangement with Dr. Wilson about the Citizen's Board and tuition. That has since been satisfactorily arranged with Dr. W.

I see by the Papers of yesterday that the Council refuses to call the Legislature. I had hoped it would call it. Is there any reason why our Board should not meet sooner than the 3rd. Monday of Novr? Nothing more than now exists can be offered for our action before that day. Pray call us as soon as you can—the earlier the better weather for our visit to Raleigh. But whenever you call let *Tuesday* Morning at farthest Evening be assigned for the meeting. I ask this on account of the Hour of departure from Ridgeway.

I shall have some 4 pr. cent Certificates on hand after paying my taxes. Shall I bond them or send to Lancaster to sell? When I last saw you, you spoke of the difficulty of writing a will, growing out of the condition and fluctuations of our Currency and stocks. Can you—will you advise me how to draw a clause so as to avoid subjecting the payor of a legacy in money or an annuity, to loss—or rather not putting the payor in the Power of the Legatee? Write it for me and send it to me.

I have had a serious attack of Erysipelas on the face and Head, succeeded by a violent diarrhoea, which almost deprived me of the Power of loco-motion. I am yet very weak—but slowly recovering my strength.

* * * * *

Hon. Thos. Ruffin
Graham N. C.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL 27, Oct. 1864.

If the state of your health will admit, your presence at a meeting of the Trustees on Monday is very desirable. It may be of *vital* impor-

tance. The immediate conscription of 13 out of 14 Seniors is imminent, and inevitable unless the very earnest remonstrance of the Board can save them. If you cannot go at all a letter to the Governor to be transmitted to the President or Secretary at War may be potential.

Judge Ruffin.

From Mary J. D. Thompson.

HEADQUARTERS RESERVE, N. C.

RALEIGH Oct. 4th, 1864.

(Extract)

Special Orders,

No. 60.

II. James W. Thompson, Senior Reserve of Alamance County, is hereby relieved from all local duty, and allowed to pursue his customary avocation. He will, until further orders, be regarded as a "detailed man," and will be called into service only in case of great emergency with men detailed according to the provisions of the act of Congress of February 17th, 1864.

* * * * *

By command of
Lt. Genl Holmes,
JNO. W. HINSDALE
A. A. Genl.

Judge Ruffin.

[Attached to above order]

SAXAPAHAW N. C. Oct. 29th 1864.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin

Dear Sir.

I received a letter from Mr. Thompson to day he was at Mebanesville on his way to Wilmington. I suppose the Col. did not approve of his detail. Now if you will do what you can for him and get him home again, you shall be handsomely paid for your trouble or if you go to Raleigh for him all your expenses will be paid. I cannot manage this leather, a great many are coming in for leather, but we cant finish and divide it unless Mr. Thompson was at home. I hope you will attend to him immediately. I dont know what nor where his post office will be. I wish you would write to him and advise him how to proceed with his detail. I hope you will excuse me for troubling you so much but I dont know what to be doing.

Yours Resp.

MARY J. D. THOMPSON.

P. O. If you get his detail approved of you had better send the paper to me or Mr. Wm. Holmes and I will get some one to go to Wilmington but do as you think best.

[Address: Graham N. C.]

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Nov. 2nd, 1864.

On further reflection I incline to the belief that neither the 6 nor the 4 per cent Con. bond will sell at any thing like par in the new issue, while the Confederacy has \$500,000,000 of 6s in market, not taxable. All many [men ?] of considerable means will fund the anticipated amt. of his taxes in 4 per cents. Many will fund more than he expects to want to pay his taxes, in the hope of lending to small tax-payers. Much will not be funded, which for this year, will be worth $\frac{2}{3}$ ds of its face to pay taxes. All the \$5 bills will be good till July. I think therefore the demand for 4s will be inconsiderable.

I wrote the Sec. of the Treasy. on the 27th ult. and have recd no answer.

I submit whether you had not better call a meeting of your board to divide responsibility with us, and discuss this matter in all its aspects.

From George McNeill.

FAYETTEVILLE Nov. 3. 1864.

Your favor of the 29th is at hand. Good Apple Brandy (new) is worth \$40 and 45 p. Gallon. I am offered \$40 for yours—if an answer is received in all next week. Salt, (N. C.) is selling, at about \$42 per bushel of 50 lbs.—some holders ask \$1 p. lb. Tallow is selling at \$4 and very scarce, I might possibly, in a few weeks, pick up 50 or 60 lbs.

I rejoice to hear that your health is improving, hope that you will soon become active and strong again, but we should expect to feel the infirmities of age creeping upon us, and prepare for it;—my health, is, in general very much as when I saw you last.—one day pretty well, and the next day I may be laid up. The rest of my family are quite well—Lizzie has a fine School, she has Mrs. Laneau (was Miss Eccles), a partner in the school. Jane and family are all quite well, Anne has quite recovered, now going to school.

We heard from *James* this morning, he was in the hottest of the late fight near Petersburg. He and his regt. were highly complimented by Genl. Lee. He is in fine health—has been on duty every day since the commencement of the Campaign in May—he hopes to get a furlough, if spared, to visit us next month. The family all join in love to you and yours.

[Address: Graham, N. Ca.]

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 3 Nov. 1864.

I have just returned from Raleigh. The meeting of Trustees on Monday night was sufficiently full and very harmonious, and resulted in the adoption of measures which will save our Seniors from immediate conscription, and I hope, excuse them from entering the army until Commencement. Lieut. General Holmes unites with us most cordially in our efforts to effect this purpose.

I was with the Public Treasurer a short time on Monday evening, and designed meeting with a fuller conference, the next day. He has not been very well recently and was quite unwell that night, and unable to come to the office when I left Raleigh at 1 p.m. yesterday.

He mentioned to me during our brief interview that the receipts for the Sinking Fund amounted to a considerable sum, and that it would be necessary to decide upon the mode of investment before a great while. Our Senior examination will close on Monday 28th inst. and the session end on Friday morning 2, Dec. The annual meeting of the Trustees is ordinarily on the 10 Dec. I will probably have it in my power to obey a summons on any intervening day, but will greatly prefer if it will answer your purposes as well, to meet you about the day which Gov. Manly may advertise for the annual meeting of the Trustees.

The Pub. Treasurer informs me that the amount of the state indebtedness, at present, is about thirty one millions, which is about in proportion of a dollar to every acre of the surface of the State, and that the recent call for the Home Guards is creating a very rapid accumulation of obligations, which I fear we will find it is very difficult to meet, in many years to come.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From Drury Lacy.

RALEIGH, N. C. 4th. Nov. '64.

I have been transferred by the Secy. of War from Hospital No. 2. at Wilson, to Hospital No. 8 at Raleigh, and to Camp Holmes, in the neighborhood. I arrived, with my family, yesterday, I have already reported for duty. On many accounts I am greatly pleased in returning to the scene of my former labours where I lived so long and so pleasantly. There is, however, one serious offset to my enjoyment; In coming here, I have not a thing on earth in the way of food to begin with, and in going through town to procure supplies, I find it next to impossible

to get anything to eat. At the suggestion of several friends, I write to you, in this time of need, to let me have 3 or 4 barrels of flour, as I am told you may be able to supply me. I would ask for more, but this is enough for my present necessities, as my family is much reduced, by my sons *all* being in the army. If you can let me have them, be so good as to write me word at *what time*, and at *what price*—and you will greatly oblige me.

For Hon. Thomas Ruffin,

Your kindness in giving me the jug of whiskey, I often think of with sincere gratitude. It was very good, and did me a great deal of good, taking 2 spoonsful a day.

From B. F. Mebane.

MEBANEVILLE N. C. Novr. 17th/64

I will be under many obligations to you, if you will see Mr. Settle, the Solicitor and give him the history of the negro case, as given you by Mr. Albright. Mr. Giles Mebane intended seeing him, but will be absent in Raleigh. I am sure if the facts are known, no farther proceedings will be taken against the parties; but it would be well for Mr. Settle to know the true history of the case; as some persons may give a false and malicious representation of the case. We are sustained in our action by every good citizen in this section; but we sincerely regret the unfortunate affair. I will be in Graham on Monday next and will give you any additional information needed.

Honbl. Thomas Ruffin

Haw River N. C

From B. Davidson.

SNOW CAMP NOV. 25th 1864.

I would regard it as a special favor if you will address Genl. Holmes for a detail of Gabe Thompson who is our iron melter and has bin for a number of years or if a petition is required perhaps Gen. Holmes would furlough him that he might remain at work untill a petition could go up. I wish to keep doing some casting. Said negro is 48 or 49 years old, a good Shop hand. I am trying to get a molder over age of conscripts.

N. B. Ringstaff has bin sick since I was at your house I hope I can send a man to cog your wheel soon. B. D.

*To Peter Mallett.*¹

to Colo. Mallett.

Gabe Thompson a free negro of the age of 48 or 49 years is a hand in the Foundry of Messrs. Dixon, Davidson and Co. of Alamance County, as the Melter and Moulder of the Establishment, and his place cannot be supplied, I believe. That establishment is of essential necessity to the Publick there, as all castings for Mills, Cotton Factorys, Sorghum Mills, ploughs, Wagon Mills etc. for a large extent of Country are there made, and without its continuing to operate the distress will be great, as there is no other operating Foundry within a long distance. I believe the representation in the letter of Mr. Davidson to me on this subject to be entirely true.

THOMAS RUFFIN.

Raleigh, Decemr 1st. 1864.

[Endorsed:

1115 Alamance.

Application of B. Davidson for detail of Gabe Thompson free n. as a moulder etc.

Conscript Office Raleigh N. C. Dec. 1/64. Resply. refd. to E. O. Alamance Co. for investigation and report as early as possible.

E. O. will also inform this Office why this boy has not been sent to Camp previously; his application having been disapproved in July last.

By order

JOSIAH JONES

Lt. and A. A. A. G.]

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA. Nov. 30th, 1864.

We have recd your favor of 24th inst. All securities except Bank Stocks and Confederate bonds have advanced so much in price that we think the choice lies between those two, and we are inclined to think Conft. bonds will be most profitable, particularly as it is probable that Congress will exempt all Conft. bonds from taxation. We prefer the new 6 per ct. bonds of the 500 in issue and the Cotton bonds and the 15 in issue. The former selling at 134 flat, the 15 in bonds @ 140 and int. and the cotton bonds @ 182½ flat. The 500 in issue bonds are the cheapest, as the coupons due 1st Jany have been sold as high as 8

¹Attached to preceding letters.

for one, tho' now dull. But occasionally the bonds can be bought with the Jany coupon off @ 111 to 112 and if you will reply immediately we may be able to buy some in that way for you. To improve our currency we want first of all Military success. If we can have that, Mr. Trenholm's plan will work well. He is a practical business man and will do all that can be done to get our finances in a better condition if Congress does not interfere with him. It is probable they will let him have his own way

From Edmund Ruffin Jr.

AMELIA Co: Dec. 2nd 1864.

* * * * *

All the other members of my household are well. Father has almost entirely regained his usual health. My son Tom dropped in most unexpectedly last Sunday night. He is here for 11 days on what is called a "horse-detail" viz. a furlough to come home and get a fresh horse. He and his horse have been in active service since the 1st of May participating in nearly all the cavalry fights from the Wilderness to Stoney Creek on the Weldon road. Tom looks remarkably well, but the horse is very low and jaded and I hardly know how to supply its place, this is the second horse I have been called on to supply—and the first was so completely broken down that it is not sufficiently recuperated for the service and probably never will be—and it is almost impossible now to get a new horse that is worth anything.

I was at Marlbourne the other day to dispose of about 100 Bbls. of Corn raised there on shares—the country is still desolate and no body is willing to buy more than 4 or 5 Bbls corn at a time for fear of being robbed by the Yankees—so that I had great difficulty in disposing of 100 Bbls, tho' the country is generally without corn and every body wanting it. The most of it disposed of to the county for the poor and for soldiers families at \$30 per bushel.

I sold at the last Amelia Court fifteen negroes belonging to our Marlbourne property—all that we saved except one man—they were women and children and brought an average of \$2500. I also sold at the same time and place a woman and 5 children, a family of my own. These were all consumers and likely to be so for some time and were sold on account of the expense of keeping and the doubtful tenure of the property. I have made here about 170 Bbls. corn—170 gals. sorghum—a good crop of sweet potatoes, cabbage and turnips and have 7 fine hogs for the knife—so that we shall not starve for a few weeks at least.

We feel that Richmond and Petersburg are safe until Grant can bring against them largely increased forces. We are looking with daily increasing interest to Georgia and Tennessee. If we can stop and annihilate Sherman and free Tennessee and Kentucky I shall begin to feel that day light is not far off. . . .

From J. A. Haywood.

P. O. GRAHAM

Dec. 16th 1864

Yesterday after 2 O'clock I wrote a petition to Gov. Z. B. Vance for a respite for 15 days for Henderson Jones now in Jail at Graham and sentenced to death. Gov. Vance granted a respite for the time petitioned for. I have visited Jones and from statements gathered from his conversation and the conversation of others I do not think he deserves death.

Some of the Jury who convicted Jones say they are willing to sign a petition to the Governor for him and I think there is very strong feeling existing in this County in his favor. Jones belongs to the army, volunteered at the first of the war and served his Country faithfully up to the time of his imprisonment for the offence committed by him.

The Divines who have visited him express their belief in strong terms that he has become a changed man and will become a good soldier if released.

I have had conversation with several Gentlemen who knew him and they say he has always been a strong Southern man in his feelings and that the man he murdered was a Yankee in feelings.

Mr. Jones expresses a strong desire to see you, thinking that you can and will do him all the good in your power.

I think if you will come to Graham on Saturday and visit him it will be a great relief to him.

Will you please answer and let me know if you will come. I take this interest in him on account of his being a *soldier* and faithful to his country.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA. Decr. 20th, 1864.

We have yours of the 15th inst. with checks amtg. to \$5,000. We wrote you 15th inst informing you that we would defer the purchase

of Conf. non taxable bonds. We have since purchased \$6000 Va. regd. bonds old issue @ 310. They will probably be higher, while the non taxables are not yet as low as they will be, could be had today @ 130 with the Jany. coupon given in. The conclusion you have arrived at in regard to drawing the inst. on Va. bonds we think is correct.

From S. F. Patterson.¹

SENATE CHAMBER

Decemr. 22d '64.

About the middle of last week, Mr. Speaker Mebane presented to the Senate the Report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, whereupon I went to the Clerks desk and read it, and moved its reference to a joint select committee, and that it be printed. Some delay occurred in the House of Commons or at the printing office I dont know which. I have sent twice to the office for it, and have been unable to obtain it, and it is now so late in the Session and amidst the hurry and confusion of the adjournment that Mr. Phillips (who is on the Committee from the Commons) and I think it would be best to postpone any action upon the Report until our meeting in January. Gov. Swain is here, and on mentioning the matter to him he approved this proposition.

* * * * *

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From Phillip A. Wiley.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT OF N. C.

RALEIGH Decr. 24/64.

Your letter to Mr. Worth is absent. He expects to sell the Sinking Funds bonds *at par* for all the funds they may have, so far as his authority to sell will permit him to do so. He will write you fully as to the other matters contained in your letter, on his return next week.

¹Samuel F. Patterson, of Caldwell, state treasurer, 1835-1837; member of the state Senate, 1846, 1848, 1864; member of the Commons, 1854.

From Mrs. Henry J. Albright.

This the 29th of Dec. 1864.

I am very unwell not able to get out of the house to attend to any kind of business, needing the advice of my husband, wishing for him to get home to buy corn which he will have to buy, and hire out some of our negroes or make some arrangements to have them attended to. I want you if you please, to try to get Gov. Vance to furlough him. Mr Albright says the Gov. is furloughing a great many he is at Kinston I got a letter this morning he is well he is guarding a bridge, the probability is he will be ordered away to Wilmington soon he says the Yankees are badly whiped at Wilmington he is under marching orders. Mr. Ruffin do try to get a furlough for him it will be a great satisfaction to me.

Mr. Albrights address

Henry Albright

Company E. 4th Reg. home guard

In care of Capt. Graham.

From George McNeill.

FAYETTEVILLE Decem. 30, 1864.

Your favor with check for \$1500 and order for Hides and Tallow was duly reed.

Mr. Lutterloh has a lot Hides which he asks \$9 pr. lb for, but I hope to pick them up in a few weeks for about \$6. The Tallow I shall get.

I rejoice to hear that your health has improved, and your family all well. We are all in usual health here. I have occasional attacks of my old complaint—but otherwise my general health is good. My son James reached home yesterday after a 10 months campaign, in fine *health and spirits*—it is really cheering to be with him and listening to his reports—after the *croaking* and faultfinding nest of traitors about *Raleigh*, which I consider the most discouraging feature to our cause, much more so than any reverses to our armies—pity that some half dozen of the *Dicks* and *Phillips* were [not] *hung*! What do you think of our prospect now? Is the war to rage on for 3 or 4 years more? or end in our subjugation? This however, I never allow myself to think of.

P. S. The Yankees were repulsed at Wilmington, but I think it probable that they will try it again—they are a persevering race!

James furlough is but for 20 days.

[Address: near Graham, N. C.]

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPT.

RALEIGH Jan. 7/65.

When your letter of the 21 Dec. reached here I was gone to my farm where I remained several days.

My advertisement for the sale of bonds was not intended to interfere with my arrangements with the Comrs. of the Sinking Fund. I expect to take all your money and issue bonds to you for the same at par.

I was without money. The appropriations of the Genl. A. required.

for the military bureaus about	\$3,500,000
" Salt Work	450,000
" Asylums	500,000
" Soldiers' families	3,000,000
" Civil expenses	2,500,000
	9,900,000.

Much of this was required *immediately*.

My resources were Con 6s	500,000
To be paid me by clothing establishment, per resolution of Genl. A.	2,500,000
Amt. due the State awaiting an appropriation by Congress	2,000,000
	5,000,000.

Not one of these resources was reliable. I was authorized to issue some \$2,500,000 in treas. notes fundable in 1876 and to sell State bonds to the amount of about 2½ millions. Discretionary power was given me as to which of these resources I would adopt. To assist me in the exercise of this discretion, I advertised the sale of half a million of bonds. The biddings ranged from par to 121 premium. The whole biddings did not reach \$150,000. Much the larger portion was at 103 premium. Even at this rate I deem the sale of the bonds better than the issue of the Treasury notes. I rejected all the bids—and have since sold \$100,000 at \$250,000 and am now selling slowly at 175 premium.

When the Assembly re-convenes I will use my influence to get the Com. appointed to review your accounts.

I have time only to give you the above general outline of the condition of the treasury and my views in the exercise of the large discretion confided to me.

From Walter Gwynn.

COLUMBIA, So. CA. Jany. 20. [1865.]

Although your letter came too late to serve my purpose yet I am just as much obliged to you for your kind attention to my request.

I sent on to Lancaster of Richmond what stock I had to dispose of and his returns satisfy me that I sent them to a better market than Raleigh. Every one in this part of the world is looking to the action of Congress upon Finances.

Except in a small retail way business is at a stand still and every one refuses to enter into any long contracts until Congress determines what confidence we ought to place in Confederate money. I devoutly pray that the scheme offered by Meminger will not prevail for its practical operation will be to deliver over every holder of real estate to the tender mercies of capitalists.

Mrs. Hamilton is still in Columbia, I learn that she finds it impossible to rent a house and that she will be obliged to return to No. Ca. for boarding is at the most preposterous rates. Our town is crowded to suffocation with refugees. Heaven only knows how so many people are to be fed. Flour is at \$115 a barrel and scarce at that.

Please say to Sally that in writing to her yesterday for more garden seed I omitted to ask her to send along with them some sweet-gum. Peter I expect can supply her.

* * * * *

From Matthias E. Manly.

HILLSBORO Jan 20/65

The grape vines sent me by my young friend Mr. Roulhac were duly delivered and have been planted in the best manner I know of. I hope they will grow and bear fruit and thus remind me from year to year most pleasantly of the kind remembrance of a friend in my time of need.

We had a hard time of it at Raleigh,—of which I may *tell* you some day when we have nothing better to talk about.

Your notice of *dissent* reminds me that Judge *Joynes* of Va. has decided that the senior reserve is not entitled to discharge upon arriving at 50 but is in for the war, thus concurring in *my dissent* at the late term of the court.

It is the more gratifying to me as I learn that the Judge (*Joynes*) is a man of ability

The fall of Fort Fisher has cast me down a good deal. If *all* had done their duty in its defense the result would have been less annoying.

But I fear explanations have become necessary which it will be difficult to make, satisfactory to the country—explanations which will shew a want of earnestness and vigour in the cause. It is bad; but *all*

is not lost and we must brace ourselves up to renewed exertion—and above all to an unalterable determination to be free.

I hope we shall outlive the direful events that are now sweeping over our heads and congratulate together upon their happy consummation in independence.

* * * * *

Hon T. Ruffin.

From James Sloan.

OFFICE CHIEF COMMISSARY N. C.

GREENSBORO Jany 24th 1865.

To the Officers and Agents Subs. Dept. N. C.

Permission is hereby granted Honl. Thomas Ruffin to ship to his daughter Mrs. Edmund Ruffin of Amelia County, Virginia, Five Barrels of Flour for her family's use. and the Officers and Agts of this Dept. are hereby instructed not to interfere with or impress the same.

JAMES SLOAN

Majr. and Chf. Comy.

GREENSBORO 24 Jany 1865

Hon: Thos. Ruffin,

Alamance

Please find above order, which will enable you to ship the Flour to your Daughter, without let or hinderance

Very Respfly.

JAMES SLOAN

If you will let me know when you forwd. the flour, I will with pleasure give the forwarding my personal attention.

JAMES SLOAN.

From M. A. Curtis

HILLSBOROUGH, Jan: 27th. [1865]

When I wrote you, some days ago, proposing to go up on Saturday, I was not anticipating such an aggravation of the infirmity then troubling me somewhat, as to prevent my traveling altogether. I have been suffering from *chilblains*, which are now so painful that I can not put on my boots, and walking even in slippers is troublesome. So I have nothing for it, but to withdraw my appointment for next Sunday. I doubt if I shall be able to officiate even here. I regret this very much, as I had made up my mind to the pleasure of a visit this week.

I am distressed by information given me by Mr. Cameron about Mr. Gwynn. At the same time, he gives no well assured facts that destroy all hope of Mr. G. being a prisoner. Prof. Hubbard is in the same state of uncertainty in regard to his Son-in-law, Mr. Argo, who was in Fisher during the fight. Mr. A. has not since been heard from, and yet Prof. H. believes he is a prisoner. And why not? They anticipate the worst when there is room for hope? They would have written, if they could; but, in the hurry of removal, they may not have been able to do it, or the letters may have miscarried. Mr. Watson brought up only some 500 letters. Hundreds of others, therefore, could not have written. I shall not cease to believe the best, until I hear something yet more definite and positive. I hope poor Sally will not despair of good news yet to come. God support and comfort her in this her new trial.

From Junius A. Alston.

CHATHAM Feb. 1st 1865.

Being guardian and having a large estate to manage and the unsettled condition of the money-market induce me to beg of you your opinion. If you shall be so kind as to grant it I should then feel that I was acting on good authority. In the first place I received a good deal of Confederate money the first year of the war and lent it again when Confederate money was about on a par with other money. The Confederate money rec'd by me was collected of notes due before the war. Since the money has so largely depreciated, those indebted to the estate have come forward to settle the claims. I have uniformly rejected all offers until I could be satisfactorily advised. In one view it seems, as I lent Confederate money I ought to receive the same; in another view I am doubtful for at the time I lent that money flour (I take that but other products went up in proportion) was selling for about twenty dollars a barrel and now it is six hundred dollars—owing to the depreciation of money. Were I to receive it I would not receive an equivalent to what I lent. I desire to do nothing to embarrass the Confederate cause but I do desire to save myself harmless against future consequences. I suppose a better standard than flour or products to judge the money by when I lent it and now that it is offered to be paid would be gold. Now Sir will you do me the favor to write me what my duty to the estate is in the above case, and in the event Confederate money should be repudiated (something I hope may never happen) would I be responsible to the estate. By answering the above questions I shall feel under many obligations and whatever I may be indebted to you I will remit.

From James Sloan.

OFFICE Q. MASTERS DEPARTMENT, N. C.

GREENSBORO: February 7th, 1865.

Yours of 31st ulto. received, but too late to avail Mr. Graves and Bryant who had prior to receipt of your letter been ret[urne]d. as delinquent Contractors. I regret they had not seen me before I was forced thus to act so that the responsibility might have been placed entirely upon the shoulders of Mr. Wood whom it appears was the offending party and who alone should have been made to suffer, but it is now too late as I have returned them and cannot now recall my letter.

From George McNeill.

FAYETTEVILLE Feby 10th 1865

Your man *Osborn* was taken up at Johnsonville (25 miles above here) and brought back to the Arsenal last evening. He was on his way home:—I have got him released and will send him in the morning by Rail Road to Egypt. He will reach home Sunday night probably.

You have doubtless heard that Major Gwinn is a prisoner, but, as I learn, not hurt. Say to your Daughter that I sincerely sympathize with her in this trying occasion.

I very much fear that Wilmington will fall, or be evacuated. And if so we shall be in continual dread here. I have still strong faith in the final triumph of our cause—my only fear is from Enemies at home. If such men as Holden, and Saml. Phillips were sent out of our country it would be well for the cause—we have a *few* of the same stripe down here.

* * * * *

From W. S. Bradshaw.¹

CAMP ON EDISTO RIVER

Febr. 11th 1865.

I received a Petition signed by a number of Citizens in and around Graham Neighbors of Jonathan Boon asking for him to be relieved from service and sent home.

¹W. S. Bradshaw, of Alamance, captain of Company A of the Seventy-seventh North Carolina Regiment.

I would be glad if it was in my power to send him home, but I have no authority to act in the matter I had him examined and he was assigned to light duty he has not carried a gun since we have been in service and no material benefit to the company indeed he has been rather a drawback requiring at times some one or two to wait on him. I understand from his Neighbors that he is a very useful man at home I would gladly give him up, knowing that he is not fit for active service I think if they had sent the Petition to Genl. Holmes he would have excused him and sent him home he has requested me to address you thinking you would probably do something for him.

*From N. Collin Hughes.*¹

HENDERSONVILLE, Feby 15th 1865

I received a letter yesterday from the Bishop extending to me an invitation to the pastoral care of the congregations at Graham and Greensboro. I will very cheerfully accept it provided suitable arrangements can be made for so doing. I should like very much to pay you a visit in order to ascertain minutely the condition of affairs and to provide for the removal of my family. My situation however is such as to make such a visit impracticable on various accounts. As however it would be very rash to take so important a step as a change of residence in the present disordered state of affairs without precaution I hope you will excuse and oblige me by replying to somewhat minute inquiries. One of the first questions must necessarily be in regard to maintenance. My white family consists, besides myself, of my wife and five children. The sum promised by the Bp, some \$1200 or \$1300, from each place, would only, in the present depreciated and depreciating condition of the currency, *assist* in supporting them, while my main dependence would necessarily be some other source of income. I am at present engaged in teaching a school of girls, taking also boys under twelve years of age. They pay a moderate tuition fee in *provisions at old prices*. I see no reasonable prospect of maintaining family with you, without a similar resource. Could such a school be had in Graham? For my qualifications as a teacher I would refer to the Bishop, Rev E. Geer, Rev L. Holmes, also to Messrs. Jno. H. Haughton, Hugh Waddell, M. Q. Waddell and H. A. London, of Pittsboro. A residence would also be necessary. Can a house be procured in Graham, and on what terms? Can furniture also be had as I shall be compelled to sell my furniture at this place reserving only bedding and carpets? Can pro-

¹Nicholas Collin Hughes, an Episcopal minister.

visions be purchased in Graham and at what prices? Would it not be practicable to make an arrangement with the Quarter Master's department, whereby provisions would be furnished me in Graham in exchange for a like amount delivered to the Government at this place? I should also like to know the number of Episcopal families and Communicants, whether there is a church building, and what is the general feeling of the community in regard to the church. I am aware that this letter may be considered of a somewhat matter of fact order. But I am sure you will regard my inquiries as referring to matters which are indispensable at this time and excuse this candor. I have made similar inquiries of Mr. E. Wilkes in regard to Greensboro. A reply at your earliest convenience will much oblige.

P. S. As regards all the subjects of inquiry in this letter I will be content with *moderate* things, as I seek necessities, not luxuries.

From David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 15. Feb. 1865.

Your letter of the 10th did not reach me until two days ago; I have advised Mr Worth of my concurrence with your views in relation to the disposition to be made of the rail road dividend.

Perhaps the marked manifestation of confidence in and liberality towards the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund may induce our "venerable" friend Mr. Edwards to withhold his resignation. I hope so. Hon. Tho. Ruffin.

From C. B. Harrison.

C. S. DEPOSITORY

RALEIGH N. C. Feby 20th. 65.

Inclosed I send you two United States postage Stamps which I procured from a Soldier. I hope however that your Son in Law Mr. Gwynn will shortly be exchanged.

From Jonathan Worth.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

RALEIGH, Feb. 20th, 1865

The hitherto unimpeded advance of Sherman admonishes us to consider what we are to do in case this capitol should be about to fall into his hands.

I learn that the specie of most of the Southern Banks is accumulated in Charlotte. This is probably known to the enemy, and will probably attract a raiding party.

Nothing is certainly known of any advance from the East—but owing to the weak interposing force which we have, such advance may be expected.

Threatened in every direction by which I may fly on a Rail Road, where is the place of Security to which I could fly?

If I leave the chief towns on the R. Roads would I not be in as much danger of robbery by deserters as I would incur from the enemy, if I remain here?

It occurs to me, as to the bonds belonging to the Sinking Fund, that it would be well for the Comrs. to hold a meeting, and direct me, to furnish each Comr. with a certificate, giving the no, date and amount of all your bonds and stocks—and then a resolution, in case of the near approach of the enemy, to commit the originals to the flames.

I make this suggestion as the best which occurs to me—but possibly you may see objections which do not occur to me.

I am decidedly of opinion that as a measure of prudent precautions the Comrs. should, *without delay*, hold a meeting to consider and decide what is best to be done in the not very improbable contingency of the occupation of the capitol by the enemy.

I would not have the meeting earlier than 1 March.

From Jonathan Worth.

RALEIGH, Mar. 1/65.

I have recd. no answer to mine of the 20th ult., making suggestions which I deemed important in relation to the security of the effects of the Sinking Fund, in my care. The danger of the occupation of this city by the enemy at no distant day is regarded as imminent by the best informed men here,—and I think I ought to have the advice of the Comrs. Without their advice I cannot adopt the plan I recommended, which I deem the only safe one.

You will oblige me by an early answer.

From A. R. Ronzie.

HEADQUARTERS C. S. MILITARY PRISONS, EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI
HIGH POINT, N. C. March 4, 1865.

Having accidentally learned from a gentleman in this place, that you reside near Graham, I have concluded to drop you a few lines, and introduce myself, as I have no doubt grown out of your recollection. I am the son of Col. Richard Ronzie of Essex Co. Virginia, and am an assistant surgeon in the C. S. A. I have been on duty in the Prison Department since March last, at Andersonville and Camp Lawton, Ga. and Columbia and Charlotte S. C. and am now here with a lot of medical and Hospital stores awaiting orders, all the prisoners having been exchanged. I have not heard from home for many months owing to its being within the enemy's lines. When I last heard, my mother was suffering with an abcess of the liver, which I am afraid will prove fatal. My father's health is as good as usual. All the rest of my relatives were well. I am sorry to see so strong a union feeling pervading this locality, and so strong is it, that a Confederate soldier can neither buy nor beg the necessaries of life. Under these circumstances may I beg the favor of you to send me a box of eatables, at your earliest convenience? Anything you can spare will be acceptable and highly appreciated. I should like much to visit you and your family. Please present me kindly to them, and excuse my presumption in making this demand on you.

Direct to the care of

Surg. R. R. Stevenson, High Point, N. C.

From R. M. Abbott.

March 4,th 1865.

Mr. Ruffin I drop you a few lines to let you no that wee are all well but as to farming everything is at a standstill and has ben for sevril weeks it is all the time raning so that wee hardly have time to get fire wood if the wether was to brake now I dont think I could do any thing in the low grounds for 2 weeks thay are so perfectly soked you stated in your letter By Mitchel that you would need more corn than I had let you have and of corse I will devide with you as long as I have any but I would of liked to of cept enough to of raised a good kiling of pork as I had such a likely parcel of shotes. Wee had to begin to use our corn earlyer in the fall than usual and I have spared allreddy 90 Barrels and that makes a good large hole in my crib so I will not deliver any more to the government for you until you can cum up and see for your self and then what ever you say I will do.

Mrs. Abbott is getting very anctious about her Bunch cotton it takes so much cloth for the summer clothes she out to have it as soon as poserble and I want you if you pleas to get me 3 bunches of fine cotton and send it with yours one No 10 and 2 No 11. I cant get any up here without paying provishtions and I have nothing of that sort to pay and I am oblige to have some clothes you will pleas attend to this for me and one oather thing the raw cotton you sent me will not be enough to clothe the famerly it would of ben a plenty if it had ben good but I am shure thay will not get 50 lbs out of the 100 that thay can do any thing with and ruin all the cards at that.

I will not send the receipt of the corn as I hope you will cum up and see me soon your friend and humble servent

R. M. ABBOTT.

Mrs. Abbott ses she did not have Judys frock wove thinking that she would get her clothes down there But she will have it wove as soon as she gets the warp she had used all the warp she had for shurting for the sumer.

R. M. A.

From Jonathan Worth.

RALEIGH, Mar. 6th, 1865.

When I at last got your letters Mr. Busbee was sick and continued unable to get to my office. I appoint next Thursday for the Coms. of the Sinking Fund. We have more to do than we can perform in due season, I fear, but your business shall be ready by Thursday. I write by this day's mail, requesting Gov. Swain and Mr. Edwards to meet you on Thursday.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA. March 13th, 1865.

We thank you for yours of 1st inst. We have the scrip for your 22 shares Bank Comm[on] w]ealth[stock. The stock is now held @ 150. There is however but little demand for it, because of the price of Confd. bonds of which the Bank holds largely. The change of Cashier has not effected its value in our opinion. S. A. Glover is the new Cashier. He is a good officer, but has not had as much experience in Banking as Mr. Martin. He is however more popular with the people and we think the change has been to the advantage of the Bank.

Unless you instruct us to do so, we will not change your State Stock for Confederate unless there should be a favorable change in the military situation.

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO. Tuesday March 21, [1865.]

I returned here this morning at 4 o.' clock—having found my son,¹ some 14. miles south west of Smithfield—and not far from the battle field of last Sunday—. He had gone down and proposed to attach himself to Dicksons Battery—he had not been “mustered in” and the officers very kindly gave me the aid of their kind offices to induce him to return home. And he came back with me without any open opposition to my wishes and to day he has gone on a visit to his Mother at Fairntosh—He will be up tomorrow and the next day shall send him up to Dr. Wilson in the hope that he *will* take him back—Unless his good Mother shall wish to detain him with her at Fairntosh. . . . His outfit consisted only of an overcoat—a shirt a few envelopes and a little letter paper and his prayer book. He was at or near the battle of Sunday—and has seen some of the leading features of war—a large army—more than 200 pieces of artillery—an immense transportation and the devastation of farms and homes by the soldiers of both armys. I heard with perfect distinctness the guns on Sunday tho 16. miles off. I think the action of Sunday was regarded as a good success as the enemy were driven from 13 lines of breastwork—' some 4 pieces of artillery captured. Our prospects are thought to be better and that unless very large reenforcements shall be sent to Sherman that he will be held below. But if Johnson in such a district as he had him in in North Georgia could not hold him back I fear he will not succeed in the pine woods plain of N. C. Both armies will very soon consume all the food in their neighborhood—indeed it is a much poorer district than I had thought it. We shall all have to open our Houses to the wounded soldiers along and near the N. C. R. R. It will be impossible to provide Hospital room for all—What we shall do to provide proper beding is to me a very ugly matter. These nights loss of sleep—and the unpleasant excitement that I have suffered for some days past render me unfit for anything—I really feel very badly. Tender to your household my best wishes that all may escape a visit from the enemy—he makes his search broad and deep—and deprives all of the means of living.

God bless you.

From J. L. Scott.

GRAHAM Mar 31st/65.

I will deliver the basket as directed: You kindly offer me a few plants which I will accept with pleasure and be greatly obliged for 75

¹Duncan Cameron, Paul C. Cameron's eldest son.

or 100. We have none so early as yours. My ground is ready. Send them when you think they will do best.

[P. S.] No news to day—troops are passing down, and the Home Guards passed up this morning to Salisbury. The Artillery will go up to night. Stoneman is moving down from the west. Rumor places him at Hickory Station on W. N. C. R. R.

Contract for Labor.

Substance of a contract proposed by Paul C. Cameron to the negroes on his own, his brothers and sisters farms in Orange County.

[April, 1865.]

That for this year 1865 the negroes shall have the 4th of wheat—the 3rd of Corn—the 3rd of molasses, and the 4th of sweet potatoes and pease—all the seed wheat of the crop to be returned before division, all the shucks, oats, Rye, wheat straw to be saved and put up for the use of the farm stock. All supplies furnished the negroes from the first of May to the first of September to be deducted from the products of the present crop.

For the next year the negroes to be allowed the *half* of the wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, molasses, peas and sweet potatoes, the seed wheat to be returned to proprietor before a division of the crop. Rye and oat crops to be sown for the use of farm stock, which with the shucks of the corn crop and chaff of the wheat crop, and wheat straw shall all be put up for the use of the cattle and stock of the farm without any division. The negroes to feed and clothe themselves and their families. The negroes to have fire-wood to be cut as shall be ordered by the proprietor or his agent. House quarters, garden ground with the use of such milch cows as may be on the plantation to be allotted by lot, provided that they shall not be used to the destruction of the young cattle, and provided that the proprietor may at any time withdraw any he may need for the use of himself and family.

The proprietor to provide land—teams of mules, horses, oxen, carts and wagons and tools, with all the proper machinery (except cotton gins) for the proper farm work. There shall be on the plantation a Depot for all farm tools and gear at which all tools and gear shall be delivered on the order of the proprietor or his agent, and any one failing to return his tools or gear, shall repay the value of the same to the proprietor or account to him satisfactorily for the loss or failure for the delivery.

The whole business of the farm to be directed by the proprietor, or by his agent who shall make his home on the place—who is to furnish all his own supplies except fire-wood, which shall be put out at his own door from wagons and carts as heretofore and his compensation shall be made from the undivided crop.

The whole matter to be set out in a written contract, with full specifications as to the time and amount of labour to be performed—10 hours of labour the year round—on each and every day—Sunday excepted. If any one or number of negroes shall commit any theft or destruction of any property by killing stock—or stealing grain from the store houses or barns or mills he or they shall be required to leave the plantation instantler, with their families, and the proprietor shall have restitution for all property so lost or destroyed from the products of the crop at market prices. No use shall be allowed of the farm stock except for farm purposes, but by permission of the proprietor. No sales shall be made of any species of property by the negroes, but with the consent of the proprietor or his agent, and delivery thereof shall at all times be in the presence of the proprietor or his agent, and the person violating shall, if required, leave the plantation without claim for compensation and if he sells the property of any other person, such person shall have restitution out of the crop of the offender.

All shall promise to be perfectly respectful in language and deportment to the proprietor and his agent or agents, and to one another and the persons so offending shall be required to leave the plantation without claim for services.

The proprietor or his agent to detail such men as he or they may think best for the care of the stock, and for any other farm duty, and such service shall be considered as a part of the farm work. The contract to continue until the 20th. of December 1866, and during all that time all the usual work of the farm, according to seasons, shall be faithfully and cheerfully performed, by all whose names shall be registered as laborers on the farm including the repairs of inclosures, house quarters, barns, mills and ditching, except in cases of sickness, and any refusal to perform any manner of work, shall be regarded as a violation of the contract, and the party shall be required to leave with his family, without claim for compensation.

The Sabbath shall be observed as a day of rest and quiet and no large assemblage of negroes shall take place on the plantation for any other than religious purposes, and no visitors shall be allowed, and no person shall be introduced as a preacher, except with the approval of the proprietor.

From John W. Norwood.

HILLSBORO, May 8, 1865

Mr. J. D. Cameron having disposed of all the salt at Depot, I send you 2½ bags of the five which Capt. Footman left with me.

Three of my best hands had left me two of them returned this morning. This is no profit to me. I am bound from a sense of justice to

keep the women and children at whatever cost for the present; and I could have had my land tended by white men on shares on better terms. I was disposed to make all reasonable allowances for human nature and receive them back again.

I sincerely sympathise with you in your destitute situation.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From George W. Mordecai.

RALEIGH 8, May 1865.

To say that I was highly gratified by the perusal of your kind and too flattering letter by Genl. Gwynn is feebly to express my feelings on its reception—although fully sensible how little I deserve the high encomiums bestowed upon me, I feel proud to know that my efforts to do good and to discharge my duties conscientiously are appreciated by one so capable of judging and whose good opinion is so well worth deserving—the value of this good opinion is much enhanced by the fact of your having known and observed me from my earliest youth, and from the spontaneous expression of it. I can only say that my best endeavours have been always used to discharge my duties in whatever station I have occupied, conscientiously and with a single eye to the interest of those for whom I have acted and where I have failed, as I am conscious of having done in numberless instances, the failure has proceeded from want of judgment. You have compelled me to be thus egotistical and must excuse me.

I hope we shall soon meet and have an opportunity of expressing our feelings and sympathies to each other. In the mean time with kindest regards to your family one and all and sentiments of sincere gratitude and friendship

From Paul C. Cameron.

HILLSBORO—May 11th 65.

I had intended before this to have written you—but waited for the storm to pass. . . . G. P. C. and his bro. A.¹ will leave us tomorrow for the Lake with wagons and mules camping out—they go to see what they can *do* at their old home under the new order of things. My wife having completed what she thought her mission at our old home—

¹George P. Collins, Mr. Cameron's son-in-law, and his brother Arthur.

very much desired to be here that she might share the interest and sympathy of friends and kindred—and she is likely to have a most heart felt welcome extended to her. She reports no little anxiety and mutual suffering—the loss of nearly *all* our food and bacon, flour, lard, molasses barrels—but little pillage from the dwelling House—the trunk with the letters and clothes of poor Walker Anderson and all the silver were about the House unfortunately. Very few of the negroes have gone off—perhaps as many from this lot as nearly all the Estates of P. C. C., P. A. C, and Dr. C. C.—! She represents all as idle and indisposed to work or return to their former duties—consuming a 5. months supply of food that had been given to them with *much waste* and proposing among themselves to consume all the stock of sheep and cattle in time. The loss in mules and horses very large—say 63 or 64. I have no cash to purchase others—and if I had could not be had—and I doubt the propriety of a purchase to that extent—as matters now stand. I hardly know what to do indeed I do *not* know what to do in any matter of propriety or business— this I do know—that in nothing will I consent to damage my good name for humanity or else that is held in esteem among good men. I will have no self reproaches. Perhaps it is my duty to tell *you* that it is reported that Jessie in a recent visit to this place is said to have excited the negroes to demands and exactions expectations and hopes that had not been thought of—such as a freehold interest in the soil on which *they reside*, I saw him but for a moment on Thursday Morning on his way to the Station. I *beg* that you will not connect my *name* with this man. I only mention it to you because your friends and children desire it. Would be very glad to have you and Mrs. Ruffin to visit us and talk over matters. Hope to have a visit from Mr. Th. and Mr. Patterson tomorrow—they passed a night at F. on Monday of this week. My sisters reported very well—friends every where well—with but little to live on and all full of anxiety. Come to see us if you can. . . .

From Thomas R. Roulhac to Catherine Ruffin Roulhac.

U. S. MILITARY PRISON
JOHNSON ISLAND OHIO
May 18th. 1865.

My dear Mother I have written you several times since my arrival at this delectable spot but have recd no answer. I hope they have reached you. I wish you would write to me telling me something of the state of things at home and how you are all getting on and obtain advice from Grandpa as to my course of action. The war I suppose

is over at least every one seems to think so. I have met many good friends who are in prison here, Col. Scales ¹ Capt. Calder ² Turner and Col. Webb. ³ Col. Cantwell ⁴ George Snow, ⁵ Rowan Rogers ⁶ brother to Hon. Sion, Midshipman Johnstone from Charlotte and myself room together. I get along tolerably well and have written to some friends North who have sent me money and have promised to send Clothing. I wrote you all about it before and gave you Dr. H's messages to yourself and all. I was captured with only the clothes I had on so that for a time I was in quite a fix and so closely resembled a contraband facetiously called "Charcoal blossoms" that few of my friends could have recognized me but as soon as I reached here some of Mat Manly's clothes were turned over to me and since then I have got along quite well. Love and a kiss to all. Write to me soon. I hope to reach home soon provided things work right. Let Mrs. Snow in Raleigh know that George is here and well. With much love.

your son Thom. R. Roulhac.

To Catherine Ruffin Roulhac. ⁷

I received this with much joy, my Dearest Catherine, and return it with many thanks, to you and especially to Almighty God for His mercy to our dear Boy. Send him to me as soon as he gets back, as my heart is full of solicitude for him and of good hope of him; and I wish to contribute all I can to make *a Man* of him: which can be easily done, with his own help, and *that* I hope and trust he will give with earnestness and constancy. Write me what disposition you have made of John, and in the mean while, for heaven's sake, keep him out of the streets and the companions they furnish. Give him some employment of body or mind or both *at home* and beseech him to avoid drinkers and smokers. He may do *well, if he will*. May God put it into his heart and give him a Resolved mind to do so and steady effort.

¹Probably Junius I. Scales.

²Robert E. Calder, of Wilmington, who had been a fellow student of Roulhac at the Hillsboro Military Academy.

³Joseph C. Webb, of Hillsboro, lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-seventh North Carolina.

⁴John L. Cantwell, of Wilmington, colonel of the Fifty-first North Carolina.

⁵George H. Snow, of Raleigh, second lieutenant of Company H. Forty-Seventh North Carolina.

⁶J. Rowan Rogers, was a lieutenant in Company I of the Forty-seventh.

⁷Written on reverse of above letter.

Your mother is better, but not well. We are all, however, tolerable, but cast down and in many respects helpless. Love to all your children and especially to poor and dear Elizabeth. God bless you all, prays your

Affec. Father,

THOMAS RUFFIN.

June 1st 1865.

[Address :

Mrs. J. B. Roulhac

Hillsboro

Orange County N. C.]

From Frank G. Ruffin.

RICHMOND. May 23, 65.

My Dear Uncle.

I have an opportunity to write to you, and I take it. It is what both myself and my wife have wanted for sometime; for you and yrs: have often in our conversation, and still oftener in our thoughts. Not one word have we have been able to hear of you since the evacuation of this place, though we have often asked. All our information comes from the direction of Charlotte. Pray write or get one of the girls to write, and tell us how you are. We do not know how you fared amid all our armies and the Yankees armies, whether they passed by, around, or through you; and it has made us uneasy, though we have heard of no harm to you.

I have nothing to say of ourselves except that we are all complaining: that is I, my wife and her sisters, and all tied up in Richmond, because the Yankees having a force of several thousand camped on my land, their commander occupying the house, and the men having destroyed every fence on the place, I can neither occupy, nor cultivate it; more especially can I not cultivate it because of the conduct of my negroes, some of whom have deserted me, and all of whom, except two, have acted with such perfidiousness that I shall discharge them all.

All my children are well: Roane a prisoner at Johnson's Island; Jeff: at work in the *field* with his grandfather, Nicholas—still weak-eyed—with me: the rest at school.

I am making an effort to sell my land in order to buy a tract of easier tillage, and more remote from Richmond, preferably on Salt Water. Anticipating a financial storm after this, I wish to reduce my soil; and at all events to be removed from competition, contact or contemplation of the "Aegyptian pitcher of tame vipers, each striving to raise its head above the others." I do not know if I can succeed. I

may not be able to sell except at a ruinous rate. If I cannot, then I and my boys must aid perforce in building up the city, which Davis burnt. I cannot trust myself to speak of Davis. My indignation against him is extreme; hotter than against the Yankee Government; for he lost the cause. Quoad my Department, I have proved it; and I mean to publish my proof, posthumously perhaps. For one reason preeminently I hope the Federals will not hang him. It will give such an excuse for History, the lying jade, to make a saint and a martyr of him. But whether they do or not, I, and I think others will join me, will do all we can to fix the disgrace of failure—for it is a disgrace—on him who caused it, and to relieve the people and army from it. But it is no time now to write of those things. I write more to inquire about you all whom I love. Pray let me hear; and minutely.

My wife would write too, but she is lightheaded today from dyspepsia. She sends love to all—not forgetting any. So do I; from the bottom of my heart.

Very sincerely and affectionately, yours

FRANK G. RUFFIN.

Uncle Ruffin I have no dyspepsia, but have had a fever, and love you all.
E. S. R.¹

From W. J. Lacy.

LACYS MILLS

June 3d 1865.

I wrote to you last week about your hides but not being certain that you received it I write again. I have sent three messengers to Fayetteville to call for them, but can hear nothing from them—think you would do well to send a special message to Mrs. Mcneil or her agent to enquire for them. I could yet have them tanned by November, provided I could get them. Let me hear from you soon. I feel very anxious about them. If they are salted Hides and still in Fayetteville they are not hurt.

My respects to your family—all well but myself.

From Edmund Ruffin, Jr.

PETERSBURG June 9th 1865.

I have just had the good luck to meet with Mr. Butts a former neighbor of mine and who has recently spent a few days with you at Allamance. He gives the first information of you all which we have

¹In the handwriting of Mrs. Frank G. Ruffin.

had since the fall of our country and the cessation of the mails I need not say how anxious we have been to hear from you and how glad Jane will be to learn what Mr. Butts has told me. I am truly glad that notwithstanding your many losses, that your dwelling remained inviolate. Knowing your anxiety to hear from us, I shall give you a statement of how we have fared as well as a few hurried moments will permit. In the retreat from Richmond and Petersburg we had the blessed good fortune, for which I shall ever be profoundly grateful, to escape both armies—they passed a few miles (from 6 to 10) south of us,—the retreat and pursuit was so rapid that within about four and twenty hours, all had passed. We had anticipated being overrun, as soon as we heard of the fall of Richmond, and went to work concealing and burying provisions and other valuables—for several nights I never worked as hard in my life—but thank God we were spared the horrors of being overrun—on the return of the Yankee army it passed even still further to the south of us. We did not see a single Yankee, not one—many of our own poor straggling soldiers came by us, all of whom we were glad to feed, and all of whom refrained from interfering with or molesting us in anyway. Since that time we have been getting on quietly, deprived even more than ever of the comforts of life, for our Confederate money would buy us something, and now we are without current funds, for such was my confidence in our ultimate success that all my funds were in Confed. bonds and currency so that I have lost everything except my land, and that possibly may be confiscated. If it is not, I count that in a short time we shall again be quite comfortable—and sufficiently well to do. I am just up from Beechwood, where my boys have already made a small start at farming. I deemed it very important to occupy the farm as soon as we could, and accordingly Tom and George who had reached us but a few days before, went down as soon as the passage of Sherman's army would permit, with a small force, took possession and pitched small crops of corn, peas and potatoes—they were at first much annoyed by the vicinity of an army corps of negroes, which has encamped just above us on the river—but that has been recently removed. I did not see a Yankee during the three first days that I have been there. The houses are all much pulled to pieces—the dwelling more damaged than any others. To repair it probably would cost more than the original charge for building. The roof has been torn off and of course all the plaistering is ruined—the floors ripped up, the porches torn down—the sashes blinds doors, door and window facings, mantels, banisters destroyed—in fact nothing is left except the four walls, and the boarding from them in many instances torn off—all the outhouses much in the same condition, except they generally have the roof and floors left. The boys are leading soldiers lives, lie hard and fare hard, but they do it cheerfully, and seem willing to work hard. Their great difficulty is to procure labor—the negroes will not work, so long as the Yankees

lavishly issue rations to them. My negroes in Amelia remained with us until about a fortnight ago, when ten left us, of whom five were children. Amongst them were our dining room boy, house maid, and wash woman—of course we have been put to great inconvenience, because in the country it is almost impossible to replace these. I have been employing the others as hirelings, but they dont work and we have no satisfaction in them—the edict has gone forth, that under no circumstances are they to be flogged—hence they are utterly lazy and negligent. At the end of the present month for which they are engaged and which will end about the 22d inst. I think the remainder will go off, or I shall have to drive them off. Susan is still with us, but has become perfectly good for nothing. I have been trying today to hire hands for Beechwood and house servants for Amelia but have not been able to succeed. I see no prospect whatever of comfort, until we are clear of the freed negroes and this place is supplied by white labor—in fact, I see no hope for rest or comfort for us in this down trodden land, filled up as it will be with 3 or 4 millions of freed negroes and Yankees. I have not been able to get to Evelynton as yet—the buildings and fences there have all been destroyed. My Sister Lottie has removed to Marlbourne—she intends making that her permanent residence and urges a division of the farm, which will be made as soon as practicable—it is a great pity, for a division will materially affect the value of the property. The lands in all three places are extremely foul and unfit in their present condition for wheat culture, but I must try and put in something of a crop of wheat on each place this fall. I own nothing now but my lands, but on their credit I expect to borrow money, to do necessary building, to buy teams and implements, hire labor etc. I think in a few years I shall be able to make all straight again, so far as mere spending money is concerned.

I left all well at Redmoor last Monday. My father stood the crash better than you would suppose—tho' it went very hard with him. It came like a thunder-clap on all us—for a time its effect was crushing. My daughter Sue in particular suffered very much—and we all feel that the greatest possible calamity has befallen us. Jane is exceedingly anxious to see you all—but the want of funds prevents our going out for the present. Maybe this fall we may be able to accomplish it.

I have to go down to Beechwood again this evening and have sundry things to attend to before I start. I have written this in a great hurry, to leave for Mr. Butts to take out with him. He will probably start before I can get up again.

* * * * *

From John Potts Brown.

NEW YORK 12th June, 1865.

After these four frightful and *ruinous* years, I venture to present myself and to express the hope that you are well and with yr family around you unbroken? Do let me hear from you and of *them all*? Your good wife? and my friends, y^r: Daughters and Sons—all?—

After a year and a half in the *No. West*, I *had to come back here*. So long in this Harness I cd. pull or work in no other and so I have been in New York without much interruption as to time—but sadly otherwise in other respects. I am in good health and as anxious to be again in *free* communication with my friends and relatives *at home*.

My dear Judge I have tho't of you a thousand times during the War—and asked about you—but cd. get no reliable information. Edwd: Stanley ("Governor" Stanley!!) did relieve me a little as to yr. whereabouts and safety. Wont you be kind enough to write to me soon? Mr: Jefferson and I frequently had chats about you—to our mutual gratification. My family Except my grown Sons are with me and well—tolerably. My Firm was dissolved in Apr: 61. I am now alone in trade. Can I do any thing for you? Nothing wd. give me more pleasure.

[P. S.] . . . I forward this under cover to Mr. J. A. Gilmer at Greensboro for safer transit.

N. C. Bonds 64 and 65 *with coupons on and included*—And the face value of the coupons deducted *from the price* if off.

From C. H. Chesebro.

RALEIGH, June 19th 1865.

I would like to hire of you the building now occupied by the Christian Commission for the term of one year (from the time on which you can give me possession of the same) with the privilege of continuance for the purpose of a first class Boot Shoe and Hat Store at a reasonable rent which I am willing to pay quarterly in advance if required. I think the parties now occupying the said building could be got out if you were to come here and properly represent the case to the commandant of the post. I wish to occupy the whole building intending to live with my wife in the upper part and to occupy the lower part for the purpose heretofore mentioned. If you would like to lease me the premises in accordance with the terms mentioned please inform me when and also where I can see you here.

P. S. I am now to be found in the Conservative Office next door to Mr. Pomeroy's Book Store on Fayetteville Street.

From L. E. Heartt.

RALEIGH 12th July 1865.

An agent for that Christian Mission is up here from Newbern and I have seen him about rent of your store. He told me that they held no appropriation for paying rents. That they had paid nothing for any houses they had taken. I told him of the understanding of Mr. Cochrain and yourself about the matter, and you of course expected the rent would be paid. He said that they did not have the money, and you would have to apply to headquarters in New York. My impression is that they will not pay you. I mentioned that it was not very christianlike to withhold such a claim as yours. They will vacate the store in the course of a week.

Perhaps you had better write to the Rev. Washington Rodman Agent of the Christian Commission, at Newbern.

[P. S.] Please say your price of Rent for the Drug Store when it is vacated, should some one apply for it.

From Lancaster and Company.

RICHMOND, VA. July 14th, 1865.

Your favor of the 5th inst has been recd. We deeply regret that the result of the war, was so injurious to every interest of the country, should have been particularly disastrous to you and yours. It would have given us great pleasure to have been instrumental in saving you to a greater degree from loss. But, we, like others, did not anticipate so great a failure, until it was too late to make or advise a change in the investments of our friends. Our loss was not very heavy owing to the fact that before the war and soon after it commenced we invested in real estate which we did not part with.

It pains us much to inform you that you cannot hope for anything from the stock of the Bank of the Commonwealth. The note holders will probably not get more than 10 cts. in the dollar. We have not been able to see the Presdt, but we feel sure that our information is correct. If they had a sufficient amt. of assets to form a National Bank, there might be some hope that sometime in the future the stock would have some value. But we fear there is no prospect for any such arrangement.

We cannot say when the interest on Va. old issue bonds will be paid, but we think it will be paid beyond a doubt, unless the Federal Govt. should confiscate property to a considerable extent (which we dont believe). In that event, the people will be so discouraged as to become

indifferent to their fate and with the loss of state pride to urge them to sustain their former reputation, we fear these would make no effort to pay the debt. If the Govmt. would remove the threat of confiscation, business would speedily revive here. The regr. bonds of Va. could not be sold now for more than 35 to 36 cts. in the dollar and we do not advise a sale at such low figures. But few of our Banks can pay more than 20 cts on their notes.

It will give us pleasure to serve you at any time in any way in our power.

[Address: Graham, N. C.]

David L. Swain.

CHAPEL HILL, 31 July 1865.

I am anxious for historical and other purposes to receive from you a detailed account of the nature and extent of the ravages and spoliation of your estate, the date at which the outrages were perpetrated, and the names of the commanding officers concerned whether enemies or friends. I will thank you moreover for an estimate of the aggregate amount of your losses, computed by the specie standard, and the relative proportion of injury inflicted by our own troops.

My summons to Washington in May was too sudden to admit of opening a correspondence with you. In the two days allowed to me for preparation, nevertheless I received communications from Gov. Graham, Mr. Mordecai and Gov. Manly, of which I made good use in conferences and discussions with the President, F. P. Blair, Mr. Bancroft and others.

The bundle labelled by you "Revolutionary Documents" and "Revolutionary Papers" was duly preserved among the archives of the Historical Society, and is now in the hands of Treasurer Worth.

I had two interviews with Gen. Scott at West Point. He converses with freedom and ease but does not exhibit either as much mental or physical energy as the North Carolina friend to whom he took occasion to refer as having been his fellow student many years ago, in the law office of David Robertson at Petersburg.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin.

From John Potts Brown.

NEW YORK 1st Augt. 1865.

On 21st June I had this pleasure and failing to hear from you, I assumed that my letter did not reach you,—so I will repeat what I then wrote.

“After these four frightful and ruinous years, I venture to present myself, and to express the hope that you are well and with yr. family around you unbroken. Do let me hear from you and of them all. Your good wife? and my friends your Daughters and Sons?

“After a year and a half in the No. West, I had to come back here. So long in this Harness I could pull in no other and so I have been in New York, without much interruption as to time, but sadly otherwise in other respects. I am in good health and am anxious to be again in free communication with my friends and relatives at home!

“My dear Judge, I have tho’t of you a thousand times and asked about you but cd. get no reliable information. Edwd. Stanley (“Governor” Stanley!!) did at length tell me of yr. whereabouts and safety. Wont you be kind enough to write to me soon? Mr. Gifford and I frequently have chats about you to our mutual gratification.

“My family except my grown sons are with me—and well.

“My firm was dissolved in Apl. ’61, and I am now alone in trade. Can I do anything for you? Nothing wd. give me more pleasure.”

So I wrote you hurriedly in June, and wd. reiterate the Earnestness of my desire to hear from you. My former letter went under cover to Hon. Jno. A. Gilmer, Greensboro’. Nor have I any letter from Mr. G. and I wrote on business of interest to him! I try this by the regular mail.

My dear Judge, I would rejoice in an unrestrained talk with you for an hour. The War has wholly upset my politics. I regretted most sincerely the inception of it, but no man can regret more earnestly the failure of the South, nor feel more chagrin and mortification! But pro tem it is a fixed fact and acquiescence is all that is left to our good people. How they will be impelled when they see *the late transactions in Richmond*, annulling the Civil Govt. which “*the Government*” had authorized, I pause to learn! unparalleled!—I wd. like very much to talk to you—writing is not free,—but please write and I read.

From George W. Mordecai.

RALEIGH 4 Augt. 1865.

Yours of the 29 inst were duly reed. and I only waited the arrival of the potatoes and onions to acknowledge the receipt and to return

our united thanks for the beautiful supply of each which you were so kind as to send. They were of Superior quality and arrived safely yesterday by Express I believe having been delayed so long that we began to despair of receiving them. I think there is little danger of starvation where such fine vegetables are grown, notwithstanding the repeated and fierce raids to which I regret to hear you continue to be subjected. When will this state of things be at an end and we have peace and quiet once more restored to our land? Not in our day I fear, for every day but increases our troubles and annoyances, both from the Yankees and our own good friends at home.

I am sorry to hear of your indisposition, which I suppose prevented our having the pleasure of seeing you here last week and from which I hope you have now sufficiently recovered to enable you to leave home. I think we have been badly advised by our friends in delaying our applications for *executive clemency* so long. I do not perceive there is any abatement of vindictive feeling at least as regards myself, and I fear other influences may be if they have not already been brought to bear against us besides the vast accumulation of petitions at Washington will I fear prevent ours being acted on for some time to come; and from the indications in Virginia we have to expect trouble and vexation and expense if nothing worse, as soon as suitable instruments can be found in this State to operate with, I fear that men may be sent from the north to fill the offices which our own people cannot, on account of the oath prescribed, and in that work we can expect no quarter.

You see from the papers, that the Governor has appointed Judges to hold the Circuit courts and among them Mr. Dick, which of course prevents his acceptance of that of District judge, if he felt disposed or qualified to accept—and I suppose they will never look for some one else to fill it. By the way, a curious and important question arises from this appointment of the Governor—Suppose a man tried before one of them and convicted of murder and executed, of what offence would the judge thus appointed be guilty?

You have no doubt also seen or heard of the action with regard to the Bank—The meeting of the Stockholders. Mr. Worth the Treasurer attended and represented the interest of the State (No other person being appointed by the Governor) and announced that he appeared there without having received any instructions from the Governor—the meeting was then duly organised according to the provisions of the charter, the Directors on the part of the Stockholders appointed, and the ordinary business transacted, no question being asked as to the loyalty or disloyalty of the persons attending—after the adjournment the Gov. was notified of the action of the Stockholders in order to appoint a Director on the part of the State. He ignored the whole proceedings of the meeting and appointed not only a Director on the part of the State but also the eight Directors on the part of the Stockholders appointing all *new* men except Mr. Moore and Mr. Battle. In this

condition of things I felt bound to resign (having been elected a Director by the Stockholders) and Manly and Mr. Bryan who were also elected by them) resigned also. The Board appointed by the Governor organised yesterday. I understand by the appointment of Mr. Moore as President, Mr. Dewey has been reappointed Cashier and I suppose, the Bank will now go on, what they will do is yet uncertain. I am glad to get out of the way.

Our friend Mr. Edwards is here. I spent the morning with him and Mr. Wm. Eaton yesterday at Genl. Cox's. He has come for the purpose of filing his application which he expects to do today. He gives rather an unfavorable account of the condition of the *freedmen* in Warren, and apprehends great trouble during the fall and winter. He made very particular inquiry after you and was glad to hear that you still had enough to eat. He expects to return home tomorrow.

We are to have a meeting today of the Stockholders of the Raleigh and Gaston R. R. Co. when I suppose the same scene will be repeated as has occurred at the Bank. Dr. Hawkins will of course be thrown overboard.

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From John W. Norwood.

HILLSBORO Aug. 6, 1865.

Jesse has applied to me to assist him with advice and otherwise, in settling himself, and I have told him that I could have nothing to say to him until he first sees you upon the subject.

If he shall decide to leave you, I will endeavor to fix him here, if I can. Becey, his wife, is the only one of my negroes, who even *talks* of remaining with us. She is so absolutely necessary to my wife that I do not see how she can possibly do without her.

My three remaining able bodied men left me last thursday morning, when I had but one negro on the place who could handle a two horse plow. One of them returned and I received him back as he seemed to have acted under a mistake.

Our situation is deplorable, and will probably be much worse. I am ruined; nothing left to me but my land if I can save even all of that.

Hon. Thomas Ruffin, Sr.

From G. M. Lea.

Co. SHOPS Aug. 9th 1865.

I cannot tell when I will be at my brother James' again, perhaps not in several weeks, but if I have an opportunity I will get Capt. Gwynn's valise from there and bring it over to Co. Shops, from which place you can get it.

